

2004

# Alumni Magazine Fall 2004

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# WHITWORTH *Today*

► Fall 2004



► Student-athlete Shields runs to national glory

► Whitworth DVD tells story of Japanese Americans

► *Peace Like a River* author visits Whitworth

and more...



WEYERHAEUSER HALL  
Dedicated October 14, 2004

# WHITWORTH *Today*

## features



12

### 'IN TIME OF WAR'

Alumnna Andrea Palpant, '00, tells the story of how a number of Whitworthians – alumni, faculty and staff – joined forces with a group of Japanese Americans to tell the story of a sad chapter in the history of the Pacific Northwest, and of our nation.



15

### 'RELIEF FROM THE DAILY BARRAGE'

Leif Enger, author of the acclaimed novel *Peace Like a River*, speaks with *Whitworth Today* about the nature of God and human beings, the Charismatic Renewal of the '70s, his favorite response to a nasty critic, and what his college experience has meant to his career as a writer.



16

### THE COMPLETION OF A CAMPUS LANDMARK: A STORY IN PICTURES

Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth's new academic building, began in July 2003 as a set of stakes marking a foundation and evolved into a state-of-the-art structure teeming with students, faculty, staff and community members. View photos of the recently completed building and discover its innovative features.



18

### RECONSTRUCTING THE HISTORICAL ETHOS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Whitworth Professor of History Dale Soden has published articles, chapters and books aimed at increasing the understanding of religion's influence on the history of the Pacific Northwest, a region widely viewed as the least-churched in the country. This excerpt from Soden's latest article challenges the image of the Northwest as irreligious.




20

### WORLD CITIZEN: THAI ALUMNA LIVES MISSION

*Whitworth Today* interviews Saisuree Chutikul, '56, former government minister, accomplished musician, Whitworth Alumni Award winner, doting grandmother, and dedicated advocate for exploited women and children in her country and throughout the world.

#### FOR FURTHER READING

For additional information and feature material, look for this icon  and go to [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday).

## departments

4 Editor's Note

5 Letters

6 Whitworth News

11 President's Message

22 In the Loop

23 Class Notes

On the cover: Whitworth's Kristen Shields, '04, rounds the curve on her way to yet another victory. Photo by Kirk Hirota.

Inside cover: Weyerhaeuser Hall on a crisp fall day. Photo by Julie Riddle, '92. (See news story, Page 6, and photo essay, Page 16.)



## editor's note



I remember a sign that Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages **Pierrette Lovrién** used to have in her office. It said, "Eighty-eight percent of life is showing up." I liked that sign, though I often fail to live up to its admonition. In fact, I almost missed something great the other night, just because I was tired and cranky.

It was a Friday, the end of a long, difficult week, and I trudged to my car in the Hawthorne Hall parking lot feeling worn-out, fed-up, and ready for a 48-hour nap. I'd planned to go to a reading that evening in Weyerhaeuser Hall. The featured writer – this year's Endowed English Reader, Leif Enger – is the author of *Peace Like a River*, one of my favorite books of the past 10 years. I'd met Enger the day before his reading, when W.T. Assistant Editor **Julie Riddle, '92**, and I interviewed him. We were enchanted by the man. He's a Midwesterner, born and raised in Minnesota, and he has the quiet, self-deprecating demeanor that one expects of a writer from the land of Garrison Keillor. But he's also funny, thoughtful and smart as all get out.

No matter, though, how much I'd liked and admired Enger, no matter how much I wanted to hear him read from his wonderful book, I wanted even more to sink into my big soft couch with my big sweet puppy and just kick back after a tough week.

Halfway home, I noticed Religion Professor **Jerry Sittser's** copy of *Peace Like a River* on the passenger's seat in my car. Arrgh. I'd borrowed it so that we could scan the cover for the Enger story in this magazine. And I'd promised I'd return it before the reading. Now I was stuck. No wriggling out.

So I went. And I was enthralled again by Enger. His is so much more than just writing prowess, though his gift is, unarguably, prodigious. He has a talent for being around other people, for gently pulling them into the world of his novel, for making folks feel comfortable and entertained and even inspired. All of

those talents were on display that Friday night. And I nearly missed it.

In recent years, Whitworth has really upped the ante in terms of bringing big names to campus – not just people who are well known, but those who deserve to be so: authors whose books gain *rajes* from the toughest critics and occupy lofty positions on the most prestigious best-seller lists; musicians whose names are mentioned regularly in *The New Yorker*; doctors and missionaries and ministers whose work has meant physical, emotional and spiritual revival – or even *survival* – to people in all types of trouble. But at the college we always keep in mind that one need not be famous to be great: There are many people at Whitworth who devote themselves to a quiet pursuit of "the antidote to doom" that Bill Robinson mentions in this month's President's Message. If they're not great, I don't know who is.

We at *Whitworth Today* don't pretend to greatness. But we write about people whose excellence in their fields is indisputable and whose dedication to changing the world is stirring. In this issue alone, we've included **Saisuree Chutikul, '56**, a world-renowned advocate for women and children; **Andrea Palpant, '00**, whose work as a documentarian addresses war, injustice, and the fight to carry on; the aforementioned Leif Enger, whose novel has been described to me, and by me, as "life-changing"; **Dale Soden**, whose research into religion in the Northwest is opening eyes to some heretofore unexplored theories; and a number of other people, who get up off their couches every day (or at least 88 percent of the time) to go out and improve the world.

The great thing is, on one of those days when you don't need to "show up," you can kick back in the comfort of your warm, cozy living room, cuddle up with the family dog, and meet and appreciate these people. It's a unique opportunity. Don't miss it.

*Terry Rayburn Mitchell*

## WHITWORTH *Today*

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*Our spring 2004 issue, Politics of Faith, featured essays by four faculty members on the ways in which they make political decisions. The essays generated a great deal of response, a sampling of which is included below.*

### CHRISTIANS SHOULD WAKE UP

Sometime in the 1950s, the church abandoned our political system. It was no longer considered a proper job for Christians to go into politics. Then the Supreme Court took prayer out of our schools. Since then we have lost more and more ground. The Supreme Court, which has the Ten Commandments chiseled into its very building, has ruled it unconstitutional to have such a display in courthouses. God help us! Christians need to wake up and get involved again in the political process. It makes a huge difference in our country. I am glad that Whitworth is helping its students to "put feet to their prayers." I just hope that you are directing those feet along the narrow path.

Carolyn Sue (Stallings, '86) Seepe, M.D.  
Danville, Va.

### TURBULENT TIMES FOR AMERICANS ABROAD

The recent *Whitworth Today* including the professors' essays about politics and the importance of a worldview touched me deeply; I've shared these views with many friends. My family currently lives in Vienna, Austria. Being an American living overseas in these turbulent times is not always easy, and my passport builds more walls than bridges, I'm afraid. But your thoughts on the essentialness of a worldview, especially one rooted in the hope and promise of Christ, speak to values the college has always stressed; I appreciate them even more now than I did 25 years ago.

Todd R. Frimoth, '80  
Vienna, Austria

### DELICATE, COMPLICATED ISSUES NEED AIRING

I've always appreciated the challenge to connect belief and action. With that in mind, I was actually hoping to read something about the issue of gay

rights and/or the idea of amending the Constitution to exclude them.

I was raised to believe that homosexuality is a sin, yet . . . being gay was never a choice for me; I've come to realize that it's the path that I've been put on for some reason beyond me.

I am proud to be an American, and my belief in God is strong. I also respect those in authority and know that we will not always see eye-to-eye. That's why these delicate and complicated issues of religion and politics need to get out there and have both sides heard.

Misty Dyer, '95  
mistaries@yahoo.com  
(E-mail address included at writer's request)

### MAINSTREAM AMERICAN IDEAS LEFT UNEXPRESSED

I must take issue with your statement [in the *Editor's Note*] that the four chosen political essayists represent a full spectrum of opinion, for from my perspective, they do not. None of your writers expressed any of the following views, which are very mainstream America: government's right under God to use the sword to punish evildoers (Romans 13:4); an individual's God-given right to possess what he owns (Acts 5:4); a citizen's God-imposed duty to honor the "king" (1 Peter 2:13-17).

Frank Spaun  
Wenatchee, Wash.

### NO BLACK-AND-WHITE DECISIONS IN POLITICS, FAITH

The cover showed both [presidential] candidates and the challenge of connecting faith and action: one of my favorite topics. I skipped first to the articles about this topic and read each one with hunger. This is what I adored about my time at Whitworth – the ideas that there are no black-and-white decisions when it comes to politics or living faith, that it's important to learn and to discuss ideas, and that looking at the way we conduct ourselves to achieve our ends is essential.

Ginny (Stevenson, '80) Hein, '95 M.Ed.  
Spokane

### POLITICAL DISCUSSION TIMELY, EXCELLENT

Just received Spring 2004. Your decision to feature the whole spectrum of political discussion is most timely and excellent. Keep up the good work.

John Kleinbach, '50  
Tempe, Ariz.

### WRITERS MISUNDERSTAND POLITICAL SYSTEM

While I would not question the qualifications of your faculty in their fields of study, I do not sense a qualification to opine with authority in the arena of politics. [The faculty writers] should have a better understanding of how our system works and what the results of a certain vote will be. Our graduates today are ill prepared for intelligent involvement in government affairs – including voting. While we should all vote, a vote in ignorance of what will result from our vote is a disservice to our form of government.

Barney Beeksma, '54  
Oak Harbor, Wash.

### ALL BENEFIT FROM NON-JUDGMENTAL DIALOGUE

These essays provide something sorely missing from the current dialogue: a demonstration of substantive reflection about issues and a refusal to succumb to over-simplification, no matter how cleverly packaged the catchphrases and viscerally satisfying the emotions that these conjure up in us. Unfortunately, we all line up to serve God in the one place where scripture makes it abundantly clear that God does not want our help: judging people. Regardless of which candidates we support, we can all benefit from a dialogue that is less categorically judgmental of others, more supportive of ways we can agree to accommodate our inevitable differences, and more productively directed toward solving human problems.

Kelley Strawn, '91  
Madison, Wis.

*Write to us! Send your comments to  
rmitchell@whitworth.edu or to Letters to the  
Editor, 300 W. Hawthorne Road, MS 4203,  
Spokane, WA 99251.*

## WEYERHAEUSER OPENS WITH FANFARE, THANKSGIVING

Whitworth celebrated the opening of Weyerhaeuser Hall on Oct. 2, as part of Homecoming Weekend, with a brass fanfare and a flurry of white doves. The festivities also included . . .

- **Jerry Sittser** (Religion), the toga-clad **Forrest Baird** (Philosophy) and **Leonard Oakland** (English), **Kathy Storm** (Student Life) and **Michael Le Roy, '89**, (Politics & History) offering highlights of memorable Core lectures to show off the new Robinson Teaching Theatre as a venue worthy of Whitworth's renowned worldview-studies curriculum;

- thanks from ASWC President **Courtney Daly, '05**, to the 638 individual and corporate donors who supported Weyerhaeuser Hall as well as to the architects, contractors and college personnel who contributed their efforts to the project;

- appreciation for the art from the college's permanent collection displayed in the building, as well as for Emeritus Professor of Art **Pauline Haas'** specially commissioned triptych, *Pathways*;

- recognition for Whitworth President **Bill Robinson's** community service and leadership from Spokane business leader and Whitworth trustee **Ray Lawton**, who joined other members of the Spokane and college communities in raising \$1.3 million to name the Weyerhaeuser Hall Teaching Theatre in Robinson's honor.

Whitworth formally dedicated Weyerhaeuser Hall Oct. 14, as part of the fall meeting of the board of trustees, with a tribute to beloved longtime trustee and benefactor **C. Davis Weyerhaeuser**. Weyerhaeuser's wife, **Annette**, members of their family and board members of the Stewardship Foundation they founded attended the dedication, which featured . . .

- the voices of the Whitworth Choir filling the Robinson Teaching Theatre with the harmonies and words of Anton Brucker's *Locus Iste* ("This place was made by God a priceless and holy place");

- Yale Theologian Nicholas Wolterstorff calling on Christian liberal-arts colleges like Whitworth to pursue human justice as well as knowledge;

- Whitworth Campus Pastor and Dean of the Chapel **Terry McGonigal's** prayer of dedication thanking God "for students past and present, and for all the students to come who will pass through this archway and have their lives, and our world, changed through what they will learn here."


For additional photos of Weyerhaeuser Hall, see our photo essay on Page 16 and visit our website, [www.whitworth.edu/weyerhaeuserhall](http://www.whitworth.edu/weyerhaeuserhall). 



Photo by Al Bonman

*Annette Weyerhaeuser, second from right, visited campus for the dedication of Weyerhaeuser Hall, named in honor of her and her late husband, C. Davis Weyerhaeuser. Joining here were (from left) her son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Gail Weyerhaeuser, and (at right) her daughter, Terry Emge. At the dedication ceremony, Bill Weyerhaeuser offered a few remarks about how proud his father was of Whitworth and its mission. He also mentioned his dad's humility, saying that the only reservations C. Davis might have had regarding Weyerhaeuser Hall would have had to do with its name.*



Photo by James Klassen

*Doves take flight at the conclusion of the Oct. 2 Weyerhaeuser Hall opening celebration.*





## SHIELDS WINS NATIONAL HONOR

The College Sports Information Directors of America named Whitworth's **Kristen Shields, '04** the 2003-04 College-Division Academic All-American of the Year. She and Emeka Okafor, of the University of Connecticut's national championship basketball team, were named the two most outstanding

student-athletes in the country from among 816 Academic All-American Team members.

"This is the greatest honor that Whitworth could wish for on behalf of one of our student-athletes," says Whitworth's Director of Athletics **Scott McQuilkin, '84**.

"A key component of our athletics philosophy states that athletic participation should not compromise a student-athlete's academic pursuits. Kristen Shields is a model for Whitworth's belief that it is possible to excel both in the classroom and in competition."

Shields won the 100-meter dash and finished sixth in the 200-meter dash at the 2004 NCAA Division III Track & Field Championships. She was also the 2004 Women's Athlete of the Meet at the Northwest Conference championship meet, where she won the 100-meter and 200-meter races and anchored the winning 4x100 relay. In

addition, she was awarded the Whitworth President's Cup at Commencement for completing her degree in math and education with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. She is now a math teacher and track coach at Liberty High School, in Spangle, Wash.

Shields says she was inspired to excel in academics and athletics by faculty and coaches who were committed to excellence. Three Whitworth education professors have received the Washington Award for Excellence in Teacher Preparation in the last six years, and Whitworth track coach **Toby Schwarz** has won eight conference and regional coach-of-the-year awards since 2000.

"Competing on the Whitworth track-and-field team taught me to make the most out of each day and each practice," Shields says. "I also learned that there's always something bigger than my own accomplishments; Building relationships with my teammates, practicing leadership skills, and having a positive attitude are the most important, because those are the things that make an impact on others' lives. Those are the things that last beyond the glory of winning a race."

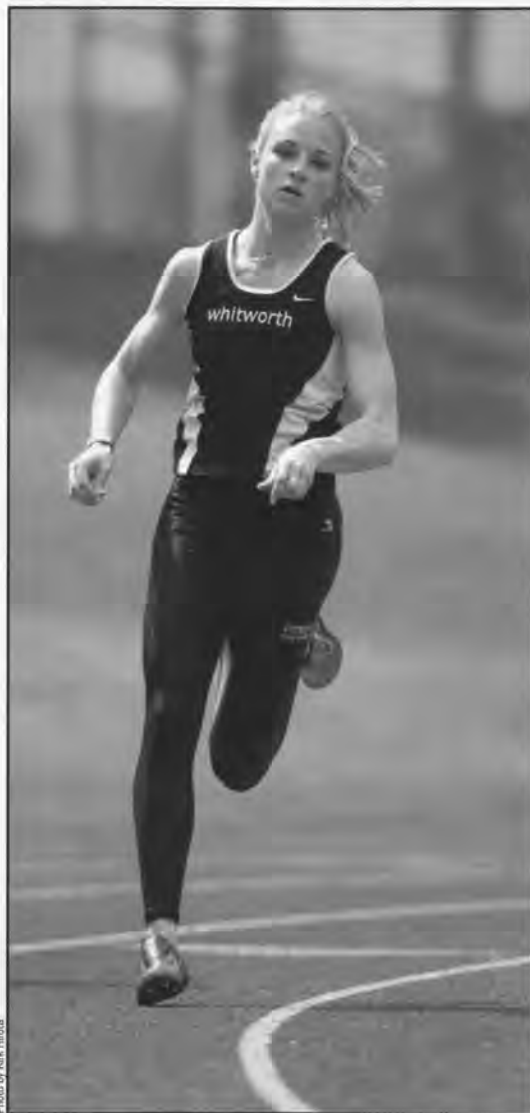


Photo by Kirk Hironaka

### faculty notes

**Michael Le Roy, '89**, (Politics & History) published a third edition of his book *Comparative Politics: Using MicroCase® Explorer* that includes a new web interface. • **Betty Williams** (School of Education) received the 2004 Excellence in Teacher Preparation Award from the Washington State Board of Education. • **Pamela Parker, '81**, (English) presented a paper at the October conference of the Victorian Studies Association of the Western United States and is serving on the board of the British Women Writers Association. • **Dennis Sterner** (School of Education) was reappointed by Governor Gary Locke to the Professional Educator Standards Board for 2004-07. • A poem, *Praise*, by **Laurie Lamon, '78**, (English) appeared in the October issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* and was selected by former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins for inclusion in *180 More: Extraordinary Poems for Ordinary Days*, a forthcoming anthology edited by Collins. • **Jim Hayford** (Athletics/Head Men's Basketball Coach) published an article, *Efficient and Effective Offensive Post Play*, in the spring 2004 issue of *American Basketball Quarterly*.

### faculty notes

— continued from left

• A column by **Kyle Usrey** (SGCM) urging the presidential candidates to marshal the forces of global commerce was published in *YaleGlobal Online*, the flagship publication of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization, as well as in *The Seattle Times* and *Spokane's Journal of Business*. • In October, **Rick Hornor, '70**, (Theatre) presented a workshop on the use of theatre in integrating character education across the curriculum, at an international conference sponsored by Character Education Partnership. • **Scott Kolbo** and **Gordon Wilson** (Art) recently served as visiting artists and exhibited their work at North Idaho College. Paintings by Wilson were also featured in a four-person exhibit, *France, Flora, Fish and F-Stops*, at Dean Davis Studio, and one of his graphite drawings was accepted for a January 2005 exhibit at Calvin College, in Grand Rapids, Mich.



## RESTORATION PROJECT PUTS ART COLLECTION ON DISPLAY

A summer of tedious, dirty and largely unseen labor to restore nearly 400 works of art in Whitworth's permanent collection has come to fruition in a display throughout Whitworth's new academic building, Weyerhaeuser Hall.

The art was a highlight of the building's October opening celebration, which also featured a new, Whitworth-commissioned triptych, *Pathways*, by Professor Emeritus of Art **Pauline Haas**; the three-piece artwork is displayed outside the Robinson Teaching Theatre.

The Whitworth collection includes prints, photography, glass, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media and paintings in every medium. Whitworth faculty and alumni created several of the works.

Throughout the summer, Whitworth art professors **Barbara Filo** and **Scott Kolbo** worked with Clara Woods, a local art-restoration professional, and with senior art students **Crystal Walker** and **Shelly Williams**, to complete the project. Funding from the Whitworth Office of Academic Affairs and Sponsored Programs supported the restoration and documentation of the art.

The collection's most notable works include *Mt. McKinley* and *The Ebb Tide*, landscape oil paintings by Sydney Laurence; *Basque Suite*, a signed print by Robert Motherwell; *Portable War Memorial*, a print on metal by Edward Kienholz; paintings by Kenneth Callahan; ceramics by Carlton Ball, David Shaner and Bojidar Bontchev; and glass by 1976 alumnus **Peter Hunner**.

The major donors of artworks and funding for the Whitworth College Permanent Art Collection are the late **Gordon Carlson, '50**, and his wife, **Dorothy (Leavens, '49) Carlson**, of Bellevue (various media and forms); Floyd and Shirley Daniel, of Seattle (photography); **Clyde Matters, '50**, and his wife, **Annie (Skeels, '57) Matters** of Spokane (African art); and **Greg Sanford, '54**, and his wife, **Ruth (Jones, '58) Sanford** (Pacific Northwest history).

## HUNT'S LATEST BOOK GARNERS AWARDS

The story of a mother and daughter who crossed the country to win a prize and save their family homestead has led author and Whitworth English Professor Emeritus **Linda Hunt, '78 MAT**, on a journey to national recognition.

Hunt's book, *Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America*, won notable awards in 2004: the Willa Cather Literary Award, a national prize for nonfiction judged by librarians and historians from around the nation, the Washington State Book Award, and the Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Association Book Award.

*Bold Spirit's* position on bestseller lists and its recent awards have prompted Random House's Anchor Books to publish the book in January 2005.

"Random House has the marketing capacity to introduce the book to a national audience, and Helga's story now has a chance to become more a part of our nation's history," says Hunt, who's been traveling around the country, speaking about the book to universities, seminaries, libraries, historical societies and church groups, as well as at bookstores and private parties. "Since her story was silenced for more than 80 years, I love seeing readers discover this spirited American woman," adds Hunt.



Photo by Julie Riddle

*Whitworth Art Professor Barbara Filo (left) and professional restorer Clara Woods work on a print during the summer restoration project.*



Photo courtesy of Linda Hunt

*Linda Hunt (front row, third from left), attends the Washington State Book Awards ceremony with other award recipients at the Seattle Public Library, in October.*



## student notes

Whitworth's student newspaper, *The Whitworthian*, won third place for general excellence in the Inland Northwest Society of Professional Journalists Competition and second place for general excellence in the Greater Northwest Student Journalism Awards. GNSJ awards went to staffers **Robert Huggins**, **Angie Pappas**, and **Ben Couch**, '04. SPJ awards went to Huggins, **Julia Nicholls** and **Bryan Tidwell**, '04, **Megan Blank**, '05, and **Chris Collins**, '06. • **Christina Gaines**, '06, was selected as the recipient of the Woodrow Foundation Scholarship, which covers the full cost of tuition and books for the 2004-05 academic year. • **Jolene Piccolo**, '05 MIM, was one of five graduate students in the United States selected for an academic internship in the 42nd Graduate Study Programme at the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. • The following students won awards at 2004 MusicFest Northwest: Young Artist: **Mike Frederick**, '04; Gold: **Allison Cleaveland** and **Rebecca Rumann**, '04, **Kimberly Fleming**, '05, and **Mark Stevens**, '06; Silver: **Fleming**, **Kimberly Canada**, **Elizabeth Webster** and **Crystal Hayes**, '05, **Brendan O'Melveny**, **Matt Price**, and **Hannah Kimball**, '06, and **Anthony Disney**, MIT. • **Emily Brandler**, '05, interned as a production assistant last summer for CNN's



Pianist Eric Reed, left, and Whitworth senior Erik Hjelt perform *A Night in Tunisia* during the Nov. 6 concert.

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE SWINGS WITH ERIC REED

Jazz-piano virtuoso Eric Reed, whose music is marked by hard-driving swing and daring expression, performed in a recent concert with the award-winning Whitworth Jazz Ensemble. While on campus, Reed also conducted a jazz clinic for Whitworth students and area musicians.

"Reed's solos are always fresh and new; he never repeats himself," says Dan Keberle, chair of the Whitworth Music Department and director of jazz studies. "His creativity is why I was so interested in bringing him to Whitworth."

The pianist, who has recorded 12 albums and leads the Eric Reed Quintet, has toured extensively with jazz giant Wynton Marsalis and has performed with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

The Whitworth Jazz Ensemble recently released its sixth CD, *Jazz 2004*, available through the music office (509.777.3280 or [jack@whitworth.edu](mailto:jack@whitworth.edu)).

## MAN OF CONVICTION

King Henry VIII (senior **Jacob Rorem**, standing) challenges Sir Thomas More (freshman **Andrew Lindstrom**) to support the king's desire for a divorce in this scene from Whitworth Theatre's fall production, *A Man for All Seasons*. Robert



Bolt's play, directed by Professor of Theatre **Rick Hornor**, '70, depicts the true story of Sir Thomas More's struggle, as chancellor of England and a favorite of the king, to remain true to his conscience despite entreaties from the crown to support Henry's break with Roman Catholicism, his assumption of the leadership of the Church of England, and his subsequent divorce and remarriage. "We all face political decisions, the controversy of our positions in relation to wars around the globe, the challenges of living lives of faith," Hornor says. "*A Man for All Seasons* is about conscience and the relationship between what we believe and how we act on our beliefs."

## student notes

— continued from left

Weekend Primetime News, in Atlanta.

• **Jessica Matsuyama**, '05, was named student president of the Northwest Athletic Trainers Association and created the association's student newsletter. • **Katie Linder**, '05, served on the planning committee for the National Network of Presbyterian College Women Conference, held in Los Angeles in July; she also received a 2004 McDonald Opportunity Award and was appointed as Whitworth's gender-opportunity advocate for 2004-05. • **Sid Friedman**, '05, co-ordinated a photo exhibit during a summer internship at Spokane's Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture. • **Laura Thaut**, '05, conducted a summer 2004 internship with the Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania. • In a local computer-programming competition, **Nathan Backman**, **Scott Otis** and **Thomas Wild**, all '06, beat 16 teams from the Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University and Gonzaga University, and will compete in a regional competition in Portland involving teams from throughout the Western U.S. and Canada.

# 2005 Rankings U.S. News

## grant notes

**Scott Kolbo** (Art) received a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a visiting-artist-in-printmaking program. • **Keith Kelley** (Service-Learning) received a Campus Compact grant that provides his program with an Americorps volunteer for one year, and a \$1,200 grant to cover the volunteer's travel and administration expenses. Kelley also received a \$10,000 grant from the Bonner Foundation to support Whitworth's Bonner Leader Program. • **Carol Smucker** (Modern Languages) received a \$34,763 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad grant to conduct research in Madagascar during her sabbatical. • **Archivist Janet Hauck** (Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning) received a \$14,770 grant from the Washington State Library Preservation Initiative for preservation of The Whitworthian. Hauck also received a \$3,000 grant from the Ferris Foundation for equipment to collect oral

## U.S. NEWS RANKINGS, ENROLLMENT CLIMB – AGAIN

In U.S. News & World Report's 2005 college rankings, released in September, Whitworth moved up to No. 2 on the best-values list and to No. 5 on the best-colleges list among 124 master's-level universities in the 15-state Western region of the U.S. Both are the highest positions Whitworth has held in the annual rankings – reflecting the college's record number of freshman applications and its high freshman-to-sophomore retention rate, graduation rates, and other indicators of academic quality. Whitworth also continued its pattern of modest growth, with full-time undergraduate enrollment growing by about 3 percent over last fall, to 1,789.

Whitworth President Bill Robinson says he welcomes the U.S. News' recognition of Whitworth's academic excellence, but he cautions students and parents against placing too much emphasis on the rankings when selecting a college.

"Of course we're pleased with our ranking in U.S. News, but I continue to feel that mission, faculty and many other factors should be more significant than rankings in a student's college-choice decision," Robinson says. "We hold an uncompromising commitment to be the best that we can be for our students, but fundamentally we are who we are, and if that places us high on the U.S. News list, that's great."

## A WHITWORTH FAREWELL

### ALFRED O. "AL" GRAY

Al Gray, a professor of journalism at Whitworth from 1946 to 1980, died in July. Gray wrote *Not by Might*, the history of Whitworth College, on the occasion of the college's 75th anniversary.

Delivering the eulogy at Gray's memorial service, Whitworth Professor of History Dale Soden, who wrote *A Venture of Mind and Spirit*, the college's centennial history, spoke of Gray's impact in his own life as well as of his contributions to Whitworth. "He was a man of honesty, courage and integrity, as well as someone who loved Whitworth dearly," Soden said.

While Gray oversaw the production of *The Whitworthian*, which will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2005, the paper won 16 All-American citations from the Associated Collegiate Press and 10 first-class awards. Gray also received a number of personal honors during his career, including the 1979 Distinguished Newspaper Adviser award given by the National Council of College Publication Advisers.

Gray is survived by his two sons and three grandchildren. His wife, Nicolín, who taught biology at Whitworth for 28 years, died in 2002.



### MARGARET TAYLOR DOANE

Known as a pioneer of sacred dance by those who shared her passion for the form, Margaret Taylor Doane, who received an honorary doctorate from Whitworth in 1998, died in October at the age of 96. Doane, the author of six sacred-dance books, danced and taught others to do so well into her 90s.

When presenting her with her honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1998, Whitworth President Bill Robinson told Doane, "You've been teacher, lecturer, writer and leader in dance for more than 65 years. I hope I'll be able to move half as gracefully as you do when I'm in my 90s."

Doane is survived by a son, a brother, a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.



## grant notes

— continued from left

histories of the Nez Perce and a \$6,995 grant from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a project to educate teachers on the use of In Time of War, the Whitworth-produced CD and video on the experience of Japanese Americans in WWII.

• **Barbara Sanders**, '92 MIT, (School of Education) received a \$20,000 sub-grant for assessment consulting services from Education Service District 101. • **Lisa Laurier** (School of Education) received an in-kind donation of diagnostic reading tests, valued at \$5,000, from the Woodcock-Munoz Foundation.

• **Karen Stevens** (Chemistry) received a \$9,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Conference to purchase an IR spectrometer. She and **Richard Stevens** (Physics) received an in-kind donation of equipment, valued at \$17,000, from the Fluke Corp.





## The antidote to doom

Words from an old Beatles tune keep rattling around my memory chambers these days: "I read the news today, oh boy...." News has gotten scary. During my morning shave, it's all I can do to keep from cutting my lips off every time I hear the sound of that jingly prelude signaling the news. "Yikes," I worry to myself. "What today?"

But lucky me: I work in a laboratory where we are creating a powerful antidote to doom. My genetic predisposition to worry stands no chance against the stunning promise I encounter in the lives of our students and alumni – folks like Kristen Shields and Andrea Palpant, whom you'll encounter in this issue.

Two days ago I received an e-mail from an alum whom I particularly enjoyed during her student years. She spends her days laboring in a highly selective M.B.A. program at Emory University because she feels "the clear call of God" to bring truth and grace to the business world. She wondered if I might know someone to mentor her in Atlanta. I connected her with a '92 grad who marches daily to CNN having packed her lunch with the fishes and loaves of Christ's high values. They'll surely fortify each other.

Earlier that day I sat in my office with

a 2004 grad who wrapped up our conversation by characterizing her new job with the comment, "Building an organization that will enlist millions of people to fight against the most deadly disease in the world is a bit daunting for a 22-year-old, but I'm ready." Even HIV/AIDS had better not take this opponent lightly.

When I hit the laboratory, even after "I heard the news today, oh boy," I put my money on hope and optimism. I'm neither a good enough writer nor a good enough prophet to describe the impact that our students will have, and are already having, on the world. But I know of no better investment than in these lives.

Yesterday at a cross-country meet, a parent who knows our son said to me, "I hear you have a couple of weddings coming up next summer." Yes, we do. As I gave this mom the update on our older daughter at Princeton Seminary, our son at Cairo's Evangelical Theological Seminary, and our younger daughter at Pepperdine University, her husband (still reeling from the idea of those two weddings) began clutching his wallet in a show of empathetic solidarity.

But we all agreed on one thing: Planet Earth offers no better investment than the future of our children. I suppose wiping out our savings or mortgaging our homes or getting to know our loan officer on a first-name basis can be done out of duty, but hope is a better and truer motive. Is there anything better with which to vacuum our bank accounts than the future of our children, a future that will

give so much more than it takes?

We have hope, folks, bright hope. We hope in our children, but we hope also in the God who guides them. My future son-in-law came over late the other night to watch a football game we had taped. Because his dad had inadvertently told him the halftime score, he suggested we fast forward to the second half. "It changes the way you watch the game when you know what's coming," he observed. Yes, it does.

Those of us who embrace historic Christianity claim that we "know what's coming." Genesis reports, "In the beginning, God....," and Revelation shows us that God is also at the end. So the question becomes, does knowing what's coming change the way we watch the game? Does it change the way we *live* the game?

The students of Whitworth College, and other Christian students around the world, have been appointed the agents of "thy Kingdom come" at a pivotal time in history. The next 50 years boggle the mind with promise and threat. But those years could not be in better hands. Our students' hands will steward the years with truth and grace. Our God will guide their efforts with the same scarred hands that have already written the last chapter with truth and grace. And we, thanks be to Christ and his young servants, need not wring our hands. Hope abounds!

*Bill Robinson*



**T**he entertainment industry has plunged into the tech revolution like a pre-teen kid in a video arcade. Postproduction technology, in particular, can realize almost anything an editor can imagine: changing a character's eye color, reinventing a background scene, correcting a garbled word, all with the glide of a mouse.

But the one thing that technology can never create is the power of story: that holy grail of journalists, novelists and documentarians everywhere. High tech or low tech, you either have story or you don't. It's intuitive. It's intimate. It's human life.

And making a documentary, perhaps like no other creative process, is an exercise in finding and telling a story.

Last year, Whitworth undertook the production of an hour-long documentary, *In Time of War*. It tells the story of Japanese



## Whitworth tells the story of the Japanese American Experience in World War II

by Andrea Palpant, '00

of the war is still at times uncomfortable. Memories are still hidden that I don't tell people about."

Shiosaki, now 80, was 18 during World War II when he joined the 442nd regimental combat team – the segregated unit

Americans living in Washington state who were affected by evacuation, internment or relocation during World War II, and focuses on the importance of preserving family, community and freedom in the face of discrimination. As its director, I was privileged to witness the story-telling synchrony between a team of institutions, professionals and, most important, internees, soldiers and protesters willing to tell stories that, together, represent a challenging part of America's story.

"I lived through a lot in my lifetime," says Fred Shiosaki, one of the interviewees from the documentary. "Discussion

### Ed and Heidi Tsutakawa



Ed and Heidi Tsutakawa met at Minidoka Internment camp in 1944. Minidoka, located 20 miles northeast of Twin Falls, in southern Idaho, was a 950-acre site bordered by a security fence and guarded by military personnel. The residents lived in tarpaper barracks with no insulation, running water or interior walls. We traveled to Minidoka in the middle of winter as part of the documentary.

"I can't believe it – that you would put me back in here!" says Heidi, laughing, with the good-natured graciousness that marks the couple's journey to the barracks. "This is the first time we've been back, into our little rooms."

"This is deluxe compared to the [barracks] we had," says Ed. "They were never finished off like this. When I go there, it's kind of sad. This coldness reminds you."

Ed worked as a camp artist, producing more than 50 water-color paintings of the camp and the surrounding area. After the camp experience and their eventual marriage, the Tsutakawas settled in Spokane, where Ed worked for many years as a civic leader, businessman and graphic designer. Heidi was a nanny for a time, and she then worked at a local import market for 27 years. They are now both retired.

of Japanese American men who volunteered or were drafted out of the camps and became the most highly decorated battalion in American military history.

Shiosaki's is our first story. On the morning of the field shoot, the crew and I traipse into his house and take over his living room with lights like white bats hanging everywhere, extension cords coiling over the floor, and a huge camera staring from its tripod. After an hour of setting up gear and glitch-fixing, we situate ourselves, roll camera, and launch into the interview. Shiosaki's first comment grabs me.

"To be honest," he says, "I've never really talked about the war to my family."

In that moment, leaning forward in classic interviewing posture, I realize for the first time what it is I'm dealing with – the guarded corners of a person's heart. And despite my strong desire to focus solely on Shiosaki, I must keep in mind all of my director's duties at the same time. I'm monitoring the video equipment while maintaining eye contact with my subject, framing edit-savvy questions while responding to his disclosures, and listening for ambient sound interruptions (do I hear an airplane – or is that a blender?) while honing in on a story that involves death, drama and sacrifice.

Compared to Shiosaki's role, mine, of course, is easy. *He* is the storyteller navigating the terrain of tough memories.

Shiosaki and his battalion, driven by a desire to prove

themselves to an American government suspicious of their loyalty, rescued a battalion of Texans caught behind German lines in southern France and in so doing helped turn the tide of WWII. "It was absolutely pitch dark," he says. "We fought for two days, moving only yards at a time. All this business about being disloyal.... I thought about stuff like that when the bullets started flying."

Shiosaki's story begins ours; it is the first step in a series of many, leading toward the completion of a documentary built upon one foundational question: What did it mean to be a Japanese American in the Northwest during WWII?

"There was such hysteria. This was the first time for the United States to have the enemy come onto their own land," says Seiko Edamatsu, referring to the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor. That hysteria led to the establishment of Executive Order 9066, which led in turn to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast. Edamatsu fled inland, to Spokane, before the order went into effect. "We weren't very welcome here," she says. "I felt like I was out in the ocean with nothing."

Guided by the experiences of our 11 interviewees, we are taken through the different dimensions of evacuation, internment, service and resistance – and are given a multifaceted look at the Japanese American experience of wartime America.

"Japan didn't want us, and the U.S. didn't want us," says Heidi Tsutakawa. "We were people without a country for so

Toki Sekijima, Ellen Kubokawa and Mary Hosada were incarcerated with their families at Minidoka, Heart Mountain (Wyo.) and Tule Lake (Calif.) camps.

"I always felt free, except when we were in camp," says Hosada. "That was a low blow."

"It was a very frightening situation," says Sekijima. "I tell people now, how would you like to... just walk out of your home with only what you could carry? But my mother was a woman of strong Christian faith, and she said, 'It says in the Bible, "Do not look back." We are not going to look back.'"

In the spring of 1943, after a year of incarceration, the women applied to Whitworth from the camp and were accepted. (By that time, people were allowed to leave the camps strictly for education or for approved work situations.) Sekijima's sister Miyo began her nurse's training at Deaconess Hospital at that time, as well.

"We came out of camp with just one little suitcase," says Hosada. "We were just happy to be at Whitworth," says Sekijima.

After the war ended, Sekijima, her sister Miyo, Kubokawa and Hosada all returned to the West Coast to rebuild their lives. Sixty years later, they keep in close contact with one another in Seattle.

## Toki Sekijima, Ellen Kubokawa and Mary Hosada



**“Japan didn’t want us, and the U.S. didn’t want us.”**

— Heidi Tsutakawa

many years.” Heidi met Ed Tsutakawa at Minidoka, an internment camp in Idaho; they married in 1949. As part of *In Time of War*, the Tsutakawas took a trip back to the barracks they lived in during their time at camp. “The whole documentary process was good for me,” says Ed. “It was a process of restoring stories, experiences and reflections to enrich future generations. This documentary is part of my own story.”

*In Time of War* originated with old-fashioned curiosity. Five years ago, Whitworth Professor of History Dale Soden, who also serves as director of the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning, encountered an archival image of Whitworth’s 1944 men’s basketball team.

“More than half of the team was Japanese American, which piqued my interest,” Soden says. “When I started digging, I found a rich Whitworth history related to the Japanese Americans. Frank Warren, Whitworth’s president during the ’40s, was a former missionary to Japan and was sympathetic to their plight. And the stories of students were fascinating – especially the story of three women who came to the college straight out of camp.”

Soden’s explorations evolved into an oral-history audio documentary. Rose (Sliger, ’02) Krause headed the project, conducting more than 30 interviews with Japanese Americans living in Spokane and in the larger Seattle area. The Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program funded

the audio project, as well as its more cumbersome sibling: a video documentary undertaken by North by Northwest Productions with Krause and Soden heading the project along with my co-producer, David Tanner, and me.

Any of the interviewees would tell you that “delivering” into a small audio microphone is decidedly less intimidating than doing the same in front of a camera. It took an extended visit over tea and biscuits for us to convince the three Japanese American Whitworth alumnae that they would survive an on-camera interview. What won them over in the end was that essential concept of *story* – the idea of being part of a larger narrative that might give the public entrée into the historical adversities of Japanese immigrants in America.

“I was reluctant at first – concerned about being misrepresented,” says Mary Hosada. “We were speaking on behalf of others. That’s a burden. But I’m glad I did it. Our stories came out with meaning, and we spoke from our hearts.”

“So few people know what happened to the Japanese American community,” says Shiosaki. “People forget what democracy is all about – that the least of us are [supposed to be] protected – but it doesn’t always happen. It’s a lesson of history that bears repeating.”

To see more on *In Time of War*, or to order the DVD or video, go to [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday).



Andrea Palpant, ’00, is a producer and writer in the television division of North by Northwest Productions. In addition to *In Time of War*, her most recent documentary projects include *Sudan: The Path to Peace*, premiering at the Amnesty International Film Festival in November, as well as *3 on 3*, a high-definition documentary on Spokane’s Hoopfest basketball tournament, premiering on HDNet this fall.

## Gene Akutsu

Almost 20,000 Japanese American men served in the American military during WWII. Their lesser-known counterparts were a small group of men in camps who made the decision to resist the military draft on grounds of violation of their constitutional rights. Gene Akutsu was one of them.

“The FBI came and said ‘You’re under arrest,’” says Akutsu, describing the scene of his removal from camp along with other resisters. “On the way over the marshals tried to talk us out of resisting. They asked us, ‘See what you’re losing? See all the freedom?’ They forgot that they had just taken us out of an internment camp . . . .”

After three years in a facility at McNeil Island, Akutsu resumed his life in Seattle, facing criticism from all sides for his controversial decision.

“The difference between the veterans and me,” says Akutsu, “is that the vets had the idea, ‘I’m going to go out there and prove that I’m a good citizen,’ whereas I said, ‘Give me my citizenship before I go into the service.’”



## 'Relief from the daily barrage'

In November, *Peace Like a River* author Leif Enger visited Whitworth as the English Department's 2004 English Endowed Reader. Enger's book, named Book Sense Book of the Year in Adult Fiction as well as one of the Best Books of 2001 by both *Time* magazine and *The Los Angeles Times*, was also listed among the best-selling books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Denver Post*, and *Publishers Weekly*. Enger lives in Minnesota with his wife, Robin, and their two children.

*Q: What is it about Peace Like a River that has captured readers' imagination and allowed the book's reputation and influence to grow?*

A: The novel works from a worldview that's become increasingly obscured in postmodern culture – oof, what a grotesque sentence, but look: If you assume a God who is concerned about human lives, and if you connect that God with the best in human nature – loyalty, sacrifice, the kind of unselfish love described in Corinthians – then this book might appeal to you. It doesn't attempt to be cool, cynical, hipper-than-thou, etc., it doesn't value sly nihilism above all else, it doesn't scold and it doesn't wallow in politics. Relief from the daily barrage! Maybe that's the secret.

*Q: Did you submit the book to a number of publishers before Grove Press decided to accept it? What kinds of comments did you get from the presses/publishers?*

A: My agent, Paul Cirone, submitted the manuscript to quite a few publishers; 10 or 12, I think. Around half of these liked the book enough to call me directly and discuss it, and it was enormous fun to sit in the kitchen of our farmhouse in Nowhere, Minnesota, talking to esteemed editors in fabled New York. As far I know, none were bored by the book – they liked it a great deal or else they were horrified by it. It made me extremely happy.

*Q: What's been the most interesting "take" on the book so far?*

A: Well, every author in the world would heave a pie at this or that reviewer, and goodness knows a few of them have it coming – Tom McGuane called one whining fellow a "devious bedwetter," which made my entire year. But I have little to complain about; most reviewers were generous to *Peace*, some extremely so. Of course there was the angry handful panning it in haughty tones. That part is no fun, but as my mom said when I was 8, "Not everyone is going to like you." Oh, well.

*Q: Did you have any inkling that the novel would strike such a chord with so many people?*

A: Nope.

*Q: How did you come to write this book?*

A: I'm a child of the charismatic renewal of the early-to-mid '70s, an experience I would neither trade nor repeat. The scene

in *Peace* where Reuben and his dad are at a church revival is lifted almost whole from life; there are plenty of prophetic utterances, quivering limbs and sensational healings (some of them genuine) in my background, and now that I've grown up enough to sort through them, two things seem evident: First, God is real, all-powerful, inexplicable and patient. Second, we are by nature false, full of B.S., and undeserving. That God is patient even as we misquote, misunderstand and misrepresent him is honest evidence of his humor; and if he can be amused with us, shouldn't we be amused (as opposed to enraged) by each other?

As to the book: after our son, then 4,

developed an asthmatic condition that nearly took his life, I wanted to write a story where miracles happened almost casually – but not the miracle most needed by my narrator. The voice of Reuben came all too easily: He knows God is there, but naturally wonders why He doesn't show up with a new set of lungs. He's forced at a young age to deal with the problem of pain; and when the miracle eventually comes, it's at a high price.

*Q: What has your college experience meant to you as a writer?*

A: My alma mater is Minnesota State University Moorhead (then simply Moorhead State University), and I loved it there, especially the creative-writing courses I took from the poet and essayist Mark Vinz, who did me the favor of being unimpressed by my work and always had genuine and thoughtful ideas for improving it. I also met Robin at MSU, was immediately head-over-heels for her and remain so after 23 years.

*Q: What's the best thing that's happened to you as a result of writing this book?*

A: Probably the chance to give fiction writing a full-time try, which I'm enjoying very much. I have an office in the loft of our barn, above the horses, and I spend my days there ignoring the telephone and working on a number of projects, including a new novel.

To hear Leif Enger, go to [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday).



Leif Enger signs a copy of *Peace Like a River* after presenting a lecture in Weyerhaeuser Hall.

Photo by Robert Higgins



# Weyerhaeuser Fall: A Pictorial Essay

by Julie Riddle '92



Photos by Dean Davis and Julie Riddle



Cost: \$7.13 million · Number of donors: 668 · Size: 33,000 square feet · Houses seven classrooms, two computer labs, the 242-seat William P. Robinson Teaching Theatre, and a state-of-the-art conference room · Home to the School of Global Commerce & Management, the departments of Politics & History and Sociology, the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning, and the Regional Resource and Learning Center · Heating and cooling system extracts heat from groundwater · Partitions manufactured from recycled materials · Touchless restroom fixtures · Classrooms feature teaching stations with networked computers and DVD, VCR and microphones · Teaching theatre equipped with wireless control panel, surround-sound audio and video cameras · To view the building's construction, visit [www.whitworth.edu/weyerhaeuserhall](http://www.whitworth.edu/weyerhaeuserhall)

# Reconstructing a region's historical ethos:

Whitworth history professor Dale Soden is trying to change the way historians and others understand the influence of religion on the history of the Pacific Northwest.

Known as the least-churched region in the country due to the relatively few people here who belong to or regularly attend church, the Northwest nonetheless has been significantly influenced by religious individuals and organizations. Last spring, Soden wrote a chapter on mainline Catholics, Protestants, and Jews in the book *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone*. Upon the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Soden published his latest in a series of articles, chapters and books aimed at increasing understanding of the religious influence on Northwest history and culture. Following is an adaptation of "Shaping the Public Square: Protestants and Catholics in the History of the Pacific Northwest," which appeared in the summer 2004 issue of *Word & World*, a quarterly journal of theology published by Luther Seminary.

**A**S LEWIS AND CLARK'S CORPS OF DISCOVERY paddled furiously down the Columbia River in the fall of 1804 on the final leg of its remarkable journey to the Pacific, Native Americans must have looked on with awe and wonder.

While Lewis and Clark did not come to the region for the purpose of imposing religion, the expedition nevertheless set in motion forces that would eventually lead to the transplantation of Christianity beyond the Rockies. Soon to follow were missionaries and their extensive effort to convert native tribes to Christianity. But with the deaths of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman at the hands of the Cayuse Indians, the story of Christians in the Pacific Northwest recedes rapidly from the pages of most histories of the region. Geographic, economic, and political forces are cited by historians to explain why the Pacific Northwest is as it is, while religion is generally not regarded as an important factor in explaining the public life of the region. And even for those historians or sociologists who do pay attention to religious issues, the fact that the Northwest was and still is the least-churched region of the country in terms of attendance and membership seems to confirm the sense that religion should not be considered very important.

However, my own research reveals a more complicated story. Far from being an irrelevant factor in the ethos of the region, religious impulses and institutions have woven their way into the fabric of the Pacific Northwest. To be sure, no singular expression has emerged to dominate the religious culture of the region as is the case in the upper Midwest or the South. And in recent surveys, more than 20 percent of the respondents in Washington and Oregon acknowledge that they do not identify with a specific religion, although many consider themselves to be spiritual. In fact, another 35 percent of the region's population state that while they identify with a recognizable religious tradition, they do not actively participate.

Nevertheless, a case can be made that Protestants, Catholics, and Jews have made a significant impact on the public life of the region. Through colleges and universities and hospitals, social services, and legislation on all sorts of issues, people with

## Research challenges Northwest's irreligious image

By Dale Soden, Ph.D.

religious convictions have significantly shaped the social ethos of even this most unchurched region of the country.

Other historians have done a good job of describing and dissecting the ways in which Christians participated in the painful efforts to isolate, assimilate, and even at moments exterminate Native Americans from the region in the period from the 1830s to the 1890s. But most of my work has focused on the period from the 1890s through the 1930s. I have tried to illuminate a complicated cultural struggle between middle-class Christians and early entrepreneurs who catered to young males who worked in the mines, the forests, the sawmills, and the burgeoning fishing and shipping industries of the Northwest. Attempting to replace the saloon, the gambling hall, and the houses of prostitution with schools (both public and private), churches, governmental authority, and codes of behavior for both men and women, these Victorian Christians fundamentally succeeded in reshaping the culture in the Pacific Northwest.

I have tried to document the efforts of Presbyterian missionary and Whitworth College founder George F. Whitworth; of Mark Matthews, who built Seattle's First Presbyterian Church

*The Rev. Mark Matthews*







*The Woman's Christian Temperance Union shows up in force at a Seattle parade in the early 1900s.*

into a major institution for social change; and of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which battled not only against alcohol but for town libraries and coffeehouses as well as for prison and educational reform and protection of abused children. This battle for culture centered on inexpensive recreational activities ranging from unregulated theatre and movies to dance halls, racetracks, and amusement parks. Religious reformers fought the advance of this culture and tried to mitigate its effects on women and children. Protestants in particular attempted to align themselves with an emerging middle class and to shape its political, economic, and social values.


More recently, I have been working on the efforts among Christians in the Pacific Northwest to minister to Japanese Americans in World War II, as well as on the stories of ministers, both black and white, who helped bring racial integration to Seattle and Portland during the Civil Rights Movement. It was during the period marked by WWII and the early Cold War that Christian denominations throughout the region cooperated in a variety of ecumenical activities that attempted to address a series of social problems.

Perhaps the most challenging era to sort through is the period from the end of the 1960s to the present. The convergence of the Vietnam War, the counterculture, and more militant civil-rights activity broke down the previous era's social consensus. Cultural conflict over the nature of American society and the role of the United States in the world produced a bitter division between liberal and conservative social philosophies that translated itself into religious expressions divided along similar lines. Leadership within mainline Christianity moved toward more liberal social and political positions. For the past 30 years, Catholics and Protestants in the Pacific Northwest have collaborated on many social and political issues out of a

common theological commitment to political and economic justice, environmental stewardship, and world peace. Other issues, however, have been more bitterly contested: abortion, the death penalty, gay and lesbian rights, and physician-assisted suicide. Not only are mainline Christians likely to be divided on these issues; public debate is also complicated by the active involvement of more conservative Christian groups.

The Pacific Northwest remains a competitive and challenging environment in which to build not only church membership but Christian identity around traditional expressions. The mainline Protestant denominations such as the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Lutherans have all been losing "market share" in the region. But a better understanding of the history of the region reveals at least a picture that testifies to the impact of religion on the Pacific Northwest's public life. That influence has taken on different forms in different historical eras, but the influence in each period has been significant.

The question for the first few decades of the 21st century is, what form will that influence continue to take? Will the mainline expressions continue to exert influence, or will that influence be replaced by upstart churches and non-denominational expressions? Will the effort to influence continue to be shaped largely by the struggle between conservatives and liberals throughout American society? Or will the open environment, the innovative character and the entrepreneurial spirit of the Pacific Northwest produce something quite new – something that indeed influences not just the region, but the country as a whole? We may be witnessing the passing of a culture much as Native Americans witnessed the passing of their culture shortly after the coming of Lewis and Clark.

To read more, go to [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday). 

# World Citizen: Thai alumna lives mission

In October, Saisuree Chutikul, '56, and four other alums were feted as Whitworth's Alumni Award winners. (See sidebars on facing page and related photo and story on Page 22.) Chutikul was given the Distinguished Alumna Award for her tireless work in human rights. When Whitworth Today interviewed Chutikul recently via e-mail, she was preparing to leave for a two-week trip to the troubled country of Myanmar (formerly Burma).

**A** native of Bangkok, Thailand, Saisuree Chutikul received a B.A. in music from Whitworth in 1956. She completed her master's and doctoral degrees at Indiana University, and she also studied composition at the University of Washington. She has performed with the Royal Thai Navy Orchestra as well as with the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, and has been a driving force for music performance in Thailand.

But Chutikul, who received an honorary doctorate from Whitworth in 1988, is known for much more than her impressive musical accomplishments. She served on the faculty and administration of several universities in the 1960s and early '70s and was a consultant for the U.N. and UNICEF. She began serving in the Thai government in 1980.

As a cabinet minister in 1991, Chutikul initiated changes in laws benefiting women and children in Thailand; and as a senator from 1996 to 2000, she helped reform laws relating to child labor and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Chutikul's efforts since 1989 as a member of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women have included advocacy for women's rights, building research programs related to children and women, decentralizing women's development projects to the rural areas, and seeking assistance for girls at risk for prostitution and labor.



Saisuree Chutikul, second from right, at a 1998 White House celebration of International Women's Day. From left, then-President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chutikul, and former Attorney General Janet Reno. Below left, Chutikul, formerly Saisuree Vatcharakiet, in her student days at Whitworth.

She has published more than 30 books and articles, and she serves on the board of World Vision International, as committee vice chair of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and with numerous other international groups devoted to the rights, health and prosperity of women and children.

*Q: How do you feel your time at Whitworth prepared you for your future work?*

A: Whitworth taught me Christian values, Christian commitment, and to trust in God and His love. God always prepares us to be and to do whatever He wants us to be and to do.

*Q: It has been said that you can judge a society based on the way it treats its children. Does your work with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child give you hope about the world into which your grandchild has been born?*

A: So far I have read the CRC reports from 108 countries. There are only two countries in the world that have not yet ratified the convention: the United States and Somalia. All of the countries have implemented the convention, but each country has difficulties in some areas. These areas vary according to economic, social, cultural and political development, e.g. poverty, transparency of governance, socio-cultural values and practices, legal framework, delivery of effective basic services, appropriate mechanisms, resources and political commitment. I just hope that our committee's recommendations will be implemented further and that children, especially poor and disadvantaged groups, will have better quality of life.

*Q: Given your connection to the United States, Thailand, and the United Nations, what is your perception of how the U.S. is regarded in the world after 9/11/2001? How has Thailand achieved a relatively peaceful acceptance of religious pluralism?*



A: The United States is in a very difficult situation after 9/11 and has received deep sympathy from around the world for the death of many innocent people. Dealing with terrorism requires international effort and intensive cooperation on all fronts. Thailand has some difficulty in the south, which has long been a problem. Partly, and probably in large part, this is due to the fact that many governments had not paid sufficient attention to economic and social development in that region. Due to recent unrest, the present government is coming up with various measures aimed at accelerating integrated development for the people there.

*Q: Given that Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country, how do you see the Christian gospel at work there? How is your own strong Christian commitment expressed in Thailand?*


A: Christians make up about 0.5 percent of the population and have freedom to worship and organize Christian activities. I believe Christian expression and commitment must be demonstrated through everyday deeds and actions as well as through styles and ways of life. The love of God for humankind must be delivered through our living witness and not through preaching the word of God alone.

*Q: Based on your own experience, why do you believe Thailand has been such a hub for human trafficking and sex tourism? What can the global community learn from the work you and your colleagues have helped to spearhead in Thailand? What progress has Thailand made recently?*

A: The hubs for human trafficking are many – West Africa, the Balkans, the sub-continent (India and neighboring countries), and Southeast Asia. Thailand happens to be an open country and its economic development, e.g. opportunity for employment, has drawn migration from neighboring countries. Thailand has also encouraged tourism since the early 1980s. With its pockets of poverty areas, compounded with other factors, Thailand becomes another hub. We began to combat the exploitation of children and women by improving our laws related to child prostitution and trafficking. The difficulty is in enforcement and the prosecution process. We are now working on the improvement of the assistance given to victims, as well as on prosecution.

*Q: What's next on your schedule? How do you stay motivated and energized for this work?*

A: My work now covers not only the CRC and combating human trafficking, but also policy on early childhood development, law reform related to children in compliance with the CRC and the Constitution, the work of World Vision (Thailand and International), a few other non-governmental organizations, and helping Payap University. God has blessed me with very good teamwork in every organization with which I work. God also gives me strength and encouragement. I am most grateful, and I thank God for the opportunity to meet and work with wonderful people whom I love and respect. Finally, I hope my 2-year-old grandson, the son of Siree, who also graduated from Whitworth, in 1995, will consider attending Whitworth College when the time comes. Dr. Robinson and the Alumni Association have already sent him a bib, on which is written, "Future Whitworthian"!

To read more, go to [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday). 

This year's recipient of the **Recent Alumnus Award** is **Travis Sines**. A Spokane native and graduate of the Class of '95, Sines was an economics major who served as ASWC president in 1993-94. Following graduation, he attended the University of Washington School of Law and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1998. He was an attorney with Paine, Hamblen, Coffin, Brooke & Miller, L.L.P., in Spokane, for nearly three years, and he decided to return to the west side in 2001 to serve as district director and chief counsel for U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn, of Washington's 8th District. Sines is also a trustee of the Washington Law School Foundation and a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at the University of Washington School of Law.

The 2004 **Alumni Mind & Heart Award** was presented to **Ted Hegg**. A native of Potlatch, Idaho, and a graduate of Whitworth's Class of '47, Hegg, a religion major, attended Dubuque Seminary and completed his M.Div. in 1950. He served Methodist and Presbyterian churches throughout Washington in his ensuing 49 years of pastoral ministry; since his retirement, he has worked with the American Association of Retired Persons and has also been an ambassador for the American Bible Society, through which he has distributed between 2,000 and 8,000 Bibles every year for the past 10 years. Hegg served on the board of the Home Care Association of Washington and has also served for several years on the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation Distribution Committee. He has been joined in his ministries by his wife of 62 years, Edith; the Heggss sent five of their children to Whitworth.

**Glen and Dorothy "Dottie" Ellison** are the recipients of this year's **Alumni Service to Whitworth Award**. Dorothy Hone grew up in British Columbia, and when she came to Whitworth to earn a B.A. in English and Bible, she had already completed a degree in Christian education from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (now Biola). Glen Ellison grew up in Southern California and spent time in the Navy and at the Montana School of Mines, as well as at Biola. He finished the first of his three Whitworth degrees in 1949, the year that Dottie graduated. Glen's professional journey took him from a position as a time-study observer to assistant chief industrial engineer at Bethlehem Steel, from salt mining on the Mojave Desert to the solar salt ponds of Western Australia, from plant manager to vice president of operations. The opportunity to be involved with Whitworth was one of the deciding factors in the Ellisons' 1989 selection of Spokane as their retirement home. Both have served as class ambassadors, and Glen was a member of the Master of International Management Program Advisory Board, while Dottie was alumni representative on the Trustee Recognitions Committee.



## ALUMNI FAMILY WEEKEND 2005

Save the dates for next summer's Alumni Family Weekend 2005, to be held on campus June 17-19. Reunion volunteers are listed in the class notes for each year, and we'll have a larger-than-ever gathering of the 1963-65 classes, as well as our first-ever 15-year reunion – for the Centennial Class of 1990. All of the details are available at [www.whitworth.edu/familyweekend](http://www.whitworth.edu/familyweekend) or see the inside back cover for more information.



Photo by Al Borman

### ALUMNI AWARDS

The 2004 Alumni Awards were presented at the annual George F. Whitworth Honors Banquet Oct. 1. Pictured from left to right are this year's winners: Mind and Heart Award recipient **Ted Hegg, '47**, with his wife, Edith; Recent Alumnus Award winner **Travis Sines, '95**; **Dottie (Hone), '49** and **Glen Ellison, '49**, winners of the Alumni Service to Whitworth Award; and, representing Distinguished Alumna Award winner **Saisuree Chutikul, '56**, honorary Professor Emeritus of Music **Margie May Ott**.

### ALUMNI DIRECTORY UPDATE

Our specialty printer, PCI (Publishing Concepts, Inc.), has now completed contacting alumni by phone, e-mail and letter to ask for current information for the 2005 alumni directory. If you would like to update your information or purchase a directory, please contact PCI directly at 800.982.1589 before the end of January. The PCI call center is open M-F 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Pacific Time).

Also, an online version of the directory, complete with password security, will debut in 2005. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting new development in online alumni services at Whitworth.

### CONTACT US

For information, contact Director of Annual Giving, Alumni, Parent and Church Relations **Tad Wisenor, '89**, at 509.777.4401, 800.532.4668, or [twisenor@whitworth.edu](mailto:twisenor@whitworth.edu). More information is available on our website: [www.whitworth.edu/alumni](http://www.whitworth.edu/alumni).



Photo by Robert Hughes

### NEW HERITAGE GALLERY MEMBERS

New inductees to the Heritage Gallery Athletics Hall of Fame were honored Oct. 2, during Homecoming Weekend. They include the 1965 Men's Cross-Country Team, which placed second at NAIA Nationals (from left: **Loren Minnick, '68**, **Jerry Leonard, '66**, **Loren McKnight, '67**, **Monte Moore, '68**, **Len Long, '68**, **Lanny Clegg, '67**, **Wayne Henning, '67**, **Denny Lemmon, '66**, **Jerry Tighe, '70**; **Nate Dunham, '96**, men's basketball standout; and **Jon Buchert**, who accepted the award for his late father, **Wayne Buchert, '55**, a football All-American.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Allyn Luenow, '34**, died March 3. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a sergeant and communication center chief in the Pacific theatre. Upon his return, he married, started a family and operated a cafeteria until his retirement. He is survived by his son, two grandchildren, one great-grandson and a brother and sister.

**Raymond Moody, '47**, died Sept. 2. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1950, he served for eight years as a pastor in Oklahoma City, Okla. For the next 21 years, he was a pastor at Manito Presbyterian Church, in Spokane, and a member of Whitworth's board of trustees. Following his retirement, he served several churches as an interim pastor before making his home in Woodland, Wash. He is survived by his wife, Anita, his daughter, his granddaughter, his brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Robert Bland, '50**, died Oct. 4, 2003. During World War II, he joined the crew of a B-24 in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew 50 missions. Following his graduation from Whitworth, he taught special education at North Central High School, in Spokane, until his retirement in 1975. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Irene, two children and five grandchildren.

**Robert Cruzen, '51**, died March 18. Following his graduation from Whitworth, he worked for Standard Oil for 10 years. In 1961, he moved to Yakima, Wash., where he began his teaching career. He was a teacher and coach at Lower Naches Grade School and Naches Middle School until his retirement in 1986. He is survived by four children, two sisters, and several grandchildren.

**Janie (Matthews) Sauvola, '57**, died Feb. 18. She taught in schools throughout Washington, including Kettle Falls, Colville, Onion Creek and Northport. She is survived by her husband, three daughters, her mother, two sisters, **Gail (Matthews) Kotzian, '71**, and **Betty (Matthews) Truscott, '77**, and four grandchildren.

**Juanita (Ward) Rolph, '58**, died May 4. After her marriage to Leonard Rolph, in 1958, she spent most of her life in Glenwood, Wash., where she was teacher. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, four grandchildren, her father, her sister and brother, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Olga (Hammer) Armstrong, '60**, died July 28. She was a physical-education teacher in Great Falls, Mont., before becoming a librarian at Spokane's Havermale Junior High, Ferris High School and Shadle Park High School. She is survived by her husband, two children, two sisters, a brother, eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

**Scott Daisley, '63**, died Sept. 6. He was a Green Beret Special Forces paratrooper in Vietnam. Following the war, he joined the Peace Corps in the South Pacific and was also with People to People. After moving to Plummer, Idaho, he was a teacher and counselor for several years. He is survived by his wife, his father, his daughter, his brother, and his sister, **Carol (Daisley) Hemus, '59**.

**Kevin Wulff, '66**, died July 7. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1997, he worked in Spokane's Central Valley School District and in the Edmonds School District, in Edmonds, Wash. He was

also a principal at Bellevue High School. He is survived by his wife, Dion, four children, his father and one brother.

**J. Michael Dempsey, '76**, died Sept. 8. After receiving a degree in nursing from Whitworth, he attended Michigan State University and completed his degree in family medicine in 1985. In 1988, he returned to his childhood home in Ronan, Mont., to pursue his lifelong dream of practicing medicine in a small, rural town in his home state.

**Jerry (Dickson) Stoicheff, '77**, died Oct. 1. She taught K-5 for 25 years in Sandpoint, Idaho, and is survived by four children, two sisters and three grandchildren.

**Karen (Williams) Stevens, '89**, died July 14. She was a resident of Spokane and worked for the past 13 years as a real-estate agent. She is survived by her mother, Erma Williams, and three sons: Randy, Grant and Bart.

We have also been informed of the deaths of **Dorothy (Brown) Helland, '39**, May 11; **Joseph Divon, '42**, Feb. 28; **George Van Leuven, '44**, Jan. 20; **Ruth (Jantzen) Roth, '47**, Feb. 7; **Robert Edwards, '48**, July 24; **Madelyn (Curtis) Carlson, '50**, March 18; **Larry Weyrick, '50**, July 22; **Raymond Blackstone, '52**, April 6; **Francis (Wilbert) Horn, '61**, Feb. 8; **Judith (Urdrian) Webster, '65**, April 20; **Tom Allison, '66**, Aug. 24; **Erma (Shirk) Harker, '66**, Feb. 3; **Judy (Ramlow) Neer, '73**, July 3; **Verona (Kinnear) Watson, '76**, March 27; **Stephen Shea, '78**, Oct. 9; and **Nancy Mattfeldt, '79**.



## future whitworthians

*We are pleased to welcome the newest members of the Whitworth family and to congratulate their parents.*

**Michael, '81**, and **Marnie Rubrecht**, a girl, Kylie Maurine, Aug. 12

**Wayde, '82**, and **Kathy Hudlow**, a boy, Kalub Robert, March 5, 2003

**Russell, '82**, and **Nonna Working**, a boy, Lev Russell, Oct. 8, 2003

**Peter, '84**, and **Violeta Swicker**, a boy, Isaac Thomas, 2002

**Bob, '85**, and **Julie (Dorr, '85) Hutchinson**, a girl, Emily Grace, May 10

**Byron, '85**, and **Regina Wade**, a boy, Andrew Fleming, Feb. 19, 2002

**Laurie Tomlinson, '88**, and **Terri Harris**, a boy, Sidney James, Feb. 13

**Thomas, '89**, and **Darla Sickelsteel**, a girl, Ella Irene, Oct. 13, 2003

**Adam, '90**, and **Britt (Blom, '94) Green**, a girl, Makenna Elise, April 25

**Matthew, '90**, and **Kristi Hilgaertner**, a boy, John Matthew, March 6

**Kathy (Kopp, '90) and Scott Jones**, a girl, Madeline Elise, Feb. 29

**Eric, '90**, and **Sally (Curtis, '91) Slippem**, twins, Isaac and Keira, March 3

**Jim, '91**, and **Kelly Puryear**, a girl, Trinity Blessing, Aug. 27

**Janis (Lambert, '91) and Robert Connallon**, a girl, Grace Karen, June 24, 2003

**Karin (Hatch, '91) and Dan Manning**, a girl, Caroline, on March 19

**Kristin (Large, '92) and Brian McAllister**, a girl, Claire Susanne, Sept. 17, 2003

**Beth (Knutson, '92) and Dan Roe**, a boy, David Robert, March 19

**Jeff, '92**, and **Rachel Tankersley**, a boy, Quinn Joseph, Nov. 13, 2002

**Keri (Scott, '93) and Tony Gnecco**, a girl, Emily Robin, March 18

**Dennis, '93**, and **Sonya Smithgall**, a girl, Erin Elaine, Jan. 27

**Rebecca (Pool, '93) and Richard Valentine**, a girl, Marguerite Christine, Feb. 20, 2003

**Wendy (Arralde, '94) and Charlie Pottgen**, a boy, Charles Andrew, March 27

**Brandon, '95**, and **Jessie Jude (Trenise, '96) Bittner**, a girl, Kailey Jude, April 21





**Courtney (Thimsen, '95)** and **Jerry Cimijotti**, a boy, Paul Aidan, Aug. 10

**Kristina (Johnson, '95)** and **Brandon Bailey, '96**, a boy, Cameron Richard, Feb. 24

**Joy (Owen, '95)** and **Eric Gjersvold**, a girl, Finna Joy, March 26

**Jennifer (Earin, '96)** and **Davon Sjostrom**, a boy, Kole Alexander, July 21.

**Chris, '96**, and **Valerie (Moffitt, '97) Fukai**, a girl, Hailie Grace, April 21, 2003

**Kari (Longmeier, '96)** and **Dale Hammond, '98**, a boy, Oliver Daniel, April 16

**Erika (Herrmann, '96)** and **Corey Kahler**, a boy, Hudson James, Oct. 31, 2003

**Erik, '96**, and **Rachel (Heiser, '96) Karns**, a boy, Andrew William, May 1

**Matt, '97**, and **Nicolle (St. Pierre, '97) Ableidinger**, a boy, Jacob Matthew, Dec. 22, 2003

**William, '97**, and **Sarah Kaufold**, a boy, Aaron Thomas, Aug. 14

**Mike, '96**, and **Ashley Larkin**, a girl, Sicily Ana, Jan. 12, 2002

**Robert, '97**, and **Kara (Hartle, '97) Billingsley**, a girl, Talia Corie, Nov. 26, 2003

**Benjamin, '98**, and **Paige (Larson, '00) Gorman**, a boy, Noah Edward, July 28

**Marcie (Colvin, '98)** and **David Hume**, a boy, Dyllan Jacob, Jan. 18, 2003

**Courtney (Yin, '98)** and **Mark LaVoie**, a girl, Isabella Ka'iulani Yin, July 16, 2003

**James, '98**, and **Jenn Newman**, a girl, Lyla Grace, July 12

**Kathi (Schreyer, '98)** and **Chris Ridgeway**, a boy, Carson Allen, May 10

**Leslie (Moody, '99)** and **Chad Dashiell**, a girl, Makena Joy, April 28, 2003

**Darin, '99**, and **Erin (Tinklenberg, '00) Radke**, a boy, Jaden Curtis, Oct. 5

**Kristofer, '99**, and **Joanne (Jensen, '99) Hall**, a girl, Alexis Grace, June 4

**Tiffany (Smith, '99)** and **Kevin Kalal**, a boy, Jensen James, Aug. 23

**Elisabeth (Gilstrap, '99)** and **James Leman, '01**, a boy, Samuel Radevonski, Sept. 24

**Amy (Ritter, '99)** and **Shawn Williams**, a boy, Jacob Richard, Oct. 14, 2002

**Erin (Donnelson, '99)** and **Steven Trupp**, a girl, Sarah Angelica, Oct. 5

**Dennis, '99**, and **Debby Winkley**, a girl, Sarah Elizabeth, Aug. 7

**Heidi (Bohnett, '00)** and **Sky Blake, '01**, a girl, Ellie Lani, May 7

**Zeke, '00**, and **Rebecca (Youngs, '00) Nelson**, a boy, Isaac James, March 28

**Heidi (Gunter, '00)** and **James Stafford**, a boy, Aiden James, Feb. 18

**Andrew, '01**, and **Elizabeth (Trudeau, '01) Franz**, a girl, Margaret Kathryn, Feb. 1

**Dave, '01**, and **Jennifer Luttinen**, a girl, Zoie Christina, June 18

**Nathan, '02**, and **Lydia (Wingrove, '02) Gazzdik**, a boy, Reece Murray, Dec. 29, 2003

**Jeremiah, '02**, and **Sandy Spencer**, a girl, Sophia Mae Pietra, May 31

**Angela (Little, '03)** and **Jacob Gott**, a girl, Elsa Sophia, June 25

**Kimberly, '03**, and **Matthew Lefler**, a boy, Carter Matthew, May 23

**Jennifer, '06**, and **Dale Roberts**, a girl, Isabella, July 1

## class of 1926

**Dorothy (Brenton) Van Camp** celebrated her 100th birthday this year. She was married to a Presbyterian minister and, after receiving her master's degree, pursued a career as a speech therapist. She lived in Modesto, Calif., for most of her life, served as dean of women at Pennsylvania's Waynesburg College, and now lives with her son, Warren, in Tennessee.

## class of 1945

60th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend

## class of 1950

55th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend  
**Reunion Committee:** Barbara (Bunny Gwinn) Antes, Chuck Bovee, Bob Canfield, Nick Faber, Georgetta (Kenoyer) Nupen, Georgene (Summerson) Patten, Les Patten

## class of 1952

**David Allen** is now the bursar at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist Monastery, in Cambridge, Mass.; in July he celebrated his 46th year with the society. He continues to preach once a month at the Boston Chinese Ministry at St. Paul's Cathedral and is active

in officiating at the eucharist and at daily prayer services. He recently revisited Japan.

## class of 1955

50th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend  
**Reunion Committee:** Paul Jensen, William (Bud) Pocklington, Marian Scafe, Connie Jo (Hilt) Squires, Darrell Squires, Arne Stueckle

After serving as a Presbyterian missionary in Brazil for 37 years (from 1961 to 1998), **Albert Reasoner** is pastor of visitation at Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church, in Spokane.

## class of 1956

**James Shepherd** is now retired and lives in Seattle, Wash.

## class of 1960

45th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend  
**Reunion Committee:** Carolyn (Fox) Baker, Dick Barney, Daisy (Henry) Chapman, Dick Moultrie, Dick Silk

## class of 1964

40th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, for Class of 1964 and 1965, during Alumni Family Weekend  
**Reunion chair:** Kathy (Koopmans) Neir



## MID-50S MINI-REUNION

In July, **Dottie (Bovee) Villevik, '56**, gathered a group of her classmates for a mini-reunion in Marysville, Wash. All attendees are Class of '56 unless listed otherwise (left to right): **Joyce (Giedt) Lashua, Villevik, Della (Weyrick) Johnson, '55, Joyce (Shriner) Elsner, Virginia (Raethke) Hoeft, Lorraine (Rosenkranz) Humble, '55, Venita (Peterson) Fawcett, Kathy Clark, '58, and Margaret (Wilson) Clark.**

## class of 1965

40th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, for Class of 1964 and 1965, during Alumni Family Weekend  
**Reunion chair:** Kathy (Koopmans) Neir

**Susan Ward** received the Robert O. Burns Award for contributions to international education. She has supervised elections in Kosovo and Bosnia, was an international human-rights election observer in Armenia, and directed tours in 14 countries highlighting United Na-





tions projects. She has also served as president of the Arizona League of Women Voters.

#### class of 1966

**Wendy (Kirkeeng) Taylor** taught high school for 17 years and studied in Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru and El Salvador. In 1998, she was ordained in the United Church of Christ and is currently working with Mexican nationals through Puente de la Costa Sur, in Pescadero, Calif. In February 2004, she and Ellen Sweetin were married in a civil service in San Francisco, Calif.

#### class of 1967

**Glen Thorp** is serving the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Presbytery of San Gabriel as vice-moderator.

#### class of 1968

**Dean Jamieson** has been installed as dean elect of the Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of

Organists. He is a teacher in the Edmonds School District and is an adjunct professor at Western Washington University in Bellingham. **Eugenia (Jeannie Stewart) Thorp** lives in San Dimas, Calif., and continues to volunteer on a variety of committees, choirs and organizations in her church, where she is an elder. She recently won first prize at the Best of Shows for all the counties in California for one of her needlepoint pieces.

#### class of 1970

**35th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend**

**Reunion Committee:** Bruce Embrey, Rick Hornor, Susan (Emery) Hornor

After a 14-month search, historic Kawaiaha'o Church in Hilo, Hawaii, has a new kahu. **Curt Kekuna** was overwhelmingly approved as the new senior pastor and began his responsibilities Sept. 1. He previously served as chaplain at Kamehameha School, Hilo campus.

#### class of 1972

**Phillip Eberle** received an outstanding-teacher award from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where he is an associate professor of agribusiness economics.

#### class of 1974

**William Rhodes** starred in Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre's presentation of *Fiddler on the Roof*. **James Russell Adams** joined Samaritan's Purse on a two-week mission trip to Krin Krin, Nicaragua, to do medical work along the Rio Coco.

#### class of 1975

**30th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend**

**Reunion Committee:** Cindi (Capron) Lupton, Denise (Skillington) Williams, John Williams

**Penelope van Roosmalen-Foster** directs two choirs in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, a Dutch choir at a Catholic church in Heeze, and an

International Women's Club choir. She occasionally solos in concerts around the area. **Bill Beard** is the president of The Beard Group, Inc., one of the Twin Cities' leading Smart Growth real-estate developers. His wife **Barbara (Hafey)** is the director of major gifts for Twin Cities United Way.

#### class of 1976

**Ed Brewster** is president of Grays Harbor College, in Aberdeen, Wash.

#### class of 1977

**Joyce Kissinger** works for United Airlines and lives in Niles, Ill. She enjoys playing the organ at a Lutheran church in Chicago and taking trips to Europe. **Dave Brown** won the Washington Blues Society Keeping the Blues Alive award for his work with the monthly blues vespers service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Tacoma.

## Alums put others on road to fulfilling careers

George Iranon, '79, and Kristin (Moyles) Janson, '93, took very different paths to Whitworth. Now they travel the same path—one that leads to employment opportunities for Spokanites who might otherwise be shut out of the job market.

A native of Hawaii, Iranon was encouraged to look at Whitworth by his Young Life leader, **Curt Kekuna**, '70. Iranon began working at Career Path Services in 1980, after completing his degree in business administration, and he is now assistant director of program operations. His son **Kalani** is a member of Whitworth's Class of '07.

Janson had never lived in the U.S. before attending Whitworth. The daughter of a Defense Department employee, she was born and raised overseas. At Whitworth she was introduced to the concept of servant-leadership, and after graduating with a degree in French and a teaching certificate, she eventually found her professional home at Career Path Services, where Iranon is her supervisor.

Career Path, which provides a broad range of employment, education, case-



*The road from Whitworth has taken Kristin (Moyles) Janson, '93, and George Iranon, '79, to Career Path Services.*

management and supporting services to people in the Pacific Northwest, has been quietly making a difference in the lives of Spokane-area residents since 1971 and also has offices in Omak, Colville and Kennewick, Wash.

Welfare recipients find assistance through a community jobs program, dislocated workers are assisted with retraining and re-employment, and low-income youngsters—most of whom have dropped out of school or face other significant barriers to employment—find the career services they need.

A graduation ceremony is held each spring for those who earn GEDs. "We give them the chance to wear a cap and gown and walk across the stage in front of family and friends to accept their diplomas," Janson says. "It's quite an inspirational night."

"This is where lives are changed and, in my opinion, sometimes saved," Janson says. "The best part is that it is all at no cost. This is a fantastic example of your tax dollars doing great work, and we are extremely conscious of being good stewards of public money." She continues, "Whitworth's mission of an education of mind and heart fits so beautifully with the work George and I have committed to here."

Iranon concludes, "Whitworth produced many blessings for me during a difficult time in my life. Faculty, administrators and students reached out to me, eventually leading me to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It was that introduction... that has been the biggest asset for what I do now. My parents taught me the importance of serving others. Whitworth taught me how to do it in the marketplace."

### class of 1979

**Debbie (Estep) Webb** teaches middle school and college-level English in Ilwaco, Wash., and is training for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation teacher leadership project.

### class of 1980

**25th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend**  
**Reunion Committee:** Tim Bruce, Ken Pecka

**Kristin Saldine** received her Ph.D. last may from Princeton Theological Seminary, where she continues to serve as a minister of the chapel. **Eric Timm** is a substitute teacher, a high-school tennis coach, and a farmer in Harrington, Wash., where he lives with his wife and three children. **Gail (Bingham) Stewart** is the downtown manager for the City of Burbank, Calif.

### class of 1982

**Russell Working** is a staff reporter for *The Chicago Tribune*, after six-and-a-half years abroad freelancing for magazines including *The New York Times*, *Business Week* and *The Atlantic Monthly*. He recently won Notre Dame's Richard Sullivan Prize for short fiction. **Jim Nendel** passed his comprehensive exams for his Ph.D. and received an award for outstanding teaching from The Pennsylvania State University. His wife, **Melissa, '93**, also worked at Penn State and developed a Sunday school at Penn Valley Community Church. The Nendels recently returned to Spokane, where Jim is a professor at Eastern Washington University. **Madeline Wald** married Jim Owens, an assistant professor for business information technology at Clinton Community College, in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Madeline continues to practice anesthesiology in Plattsburgh. **Carol Rose** is co-director of Christian Peacemaking Teams, an international organization devoted to the ministry of violence reduction in conflict situations. CPT is working in Colombia, Iraq, Arizona, Ontario and the West Bank (visit [www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org) on the web). **Kirk Brown**, chief technology officer for Sun Microsystems in Palo Alto, Calif., filed a patent on intelligent-network switching and is coaching a girls' soccer team.

### class of 1983

**Bill Kuba** is dean of enrollment of Brescia University, in Owensboro, Ky. **Linda (Almour) Carroll** and her husband, Robert, have moved to Temecula Valley, Calif. **Michelle (Moomaw) Le Beau** works part time for La Jolla Presbyterian Church as communications director. She is the mother of two boys. **Nancy Connolly**, married Mike Donovan July 19, 2003. The couple lives in Los Angeles, Calif., where both are active members of St. Monica Catholic Church. Nancy works at UCLA, and Mike is a fourth-grade teacher in Santa Monica.

### class of 1984

**Peter Swicker** works for the U.S. Department of Justice as a group supervisor, leading an enforcement team in California. **Tammy Jones**, management analyst for the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, has purchased her first home. **Jeff Steve** works as senior project manager at DolphinSearch, Inc., in Ventura, Calif., and is raising two girls with his wife, Nan. **Anita (Moser) Distel** works as a teacher's assistant in Box Elder, S.D. Her husband, Brett, recently retired from the U.S.A.F. after 23 years of service.

### class of 1985

**20th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend**  
**Reunion Committee:** Stacy (Coons) Baker, Bruce Cutter, Matthew Heaps, Janice (Rasmussen) McQuillkin, Eric Peterson  
**Rob Caldwell** received his M.D. from New York University School of Medicine. He lives in New York City with his partner, James Jaxxa, and is staying on at NYU for a residency in internal medicine. **Bert Ellingson** is working toward his school-library media-teaching credential and a master's in education at California State University, Chico. **Lenore (Bishop) Carroll** moved to Sun Valley, Idaho, with her husband, Mark, and two children. **Susan (Skinner) Tavernier** is pursuing a Ph.D. in oncology nursing research at the University of Utah. She is an oncology clinical nurse specialist at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho.



### GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL ASIA

*Whitworth alumni serving throughout central Asia gather for fellowship. Pictured from left to right: Julie (Sommer) Anderson, '63, Linda Williams, '64, Cully Anderson, '63, and Nancy Belliston, '01.*

### class of 1986

**Jan (Baysinger) Brandvold**, formerly at Spokane's KREM-TV, is now owner and proprietor of the newly remodeled Encore Espresso and Bakery, located near the Whitworth campus. **Mary Allen** teaches English as a foreign language at a private school in Temirtau, Kazakhstan (see [www.greatadventure.bz](http://www.greatadventure.bz)).

### class of 1987

**Kerri (Taubenheim) Besette** continues to teach kindergarten-second grade in Richmond, Calif. She and her husband, Bruce, are the parents of a 10-year-old daughter. **Jill Lytle** is married to Warren Ashton and lives in Bellevue, Wash., where she is the vice president of Lytle Enterprises.

### class of 1988

**Paul Vanderveen** lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with his wife, Melody, and their three girls; he owns a land development company. **Laurie Tomlinson** is the director of housing and homeless programs for the Colorado AIDS Project. **Laura (Murray) Carle** teaches in Aberdeen, Wash., where she received the district and regional teacher-of-the-year award for 2003. **Ryan Clements** lives in Spokane with his wife, Beth, and their three children. Ryan works as a financial consultant with RBC Dain Rauscher, and Beth is a full-time mom, part-time fitness trainer and part-time triathlete. The Clementses recently received the Philanthropy Day Award for Small Business 2003 and are members of Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church.

### class of 1989

**Ted Wilson** was recently named principal at Glacier Elementary School in Juneau, Alaska. His wife, **Deborah (Miller)** is a supervisor for Juneau Youth Services. After completing her master's degree in 1996, **Stacy (James) Balthazor** moved from Omak, Wash., to Ephrata, where she is a teacher and mother of two daughters. **Kevin Peterson** earned his Initial Administrative Certificate from Whitworth in 2001 and is principal of Bemiss Elementary School.

### class of 1990

**15th Reunion June 17-19, 2005, during Alumni Family Weekend**  
**Reunion Committee:** Mary (Erickson) Carlsen, Ron Goodale, Kim (De Villeneuve) Markillie, Paul Markillie, Heidi (Smith) Ob'bayi, Jim Wright  
**Kelley (Donahue) Adams** works as a private investigator and assisted **Linda (Lawrence) Hunt, MAT '78**, with research for Hunt's award-winning book, *Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America*. (See News section.) **George Pappas** is the area management biologist for the sport fish division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. **Keith Blodgett** is currently deployed in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, with the U.S. Army. **Jim Wilkins-Luton** and his wife, **Debi, '92**, spent seven years in Japan teaching for the Ministry of Education, in Kanazawa, and at a Christian high school/university in Sendai; the couple also led an interdenominational church in Sendai the last four years. Jim is a writing professor at Clark College, in Vancouver, Wash., and Debi is a full-time mom for their two children.





## class of 1991

**Janis (Lambert) Connallon** is a lobbyist for a nonprofit organization representing children with special health-care needs in Washington, D.C.

## class of 1993

**Rebecca (Pool) Valentine** and her husband, Richard, work with ESEC, a Christian organization based in California that sends English and business teachers to China. Richard teaches business at Tianjin Foreign Studies University, while Rebecca stays at home with their daughter, Marguerite. **Julie Fairman** married Chris Ward and the couple moved to Medford, Ore., in September with their two children, Imani and Andrew. Chris is an associate pastor for congregational care at Westminster Presbyterian Church. **Krista Vasquez** now works for Intel, in Vancouver, Wash., in employee communications. **Sacha Davis** married **Megan Kresch**, '94, in Vancouver, B.C., in January. They live in Seattle. **Jill Taylor** is pursuing a master's degree in Christian educa-

tion at Union Theological Seminary, in New York. **Amy Shoffner** married Bertram Fritschka in June and moved to Berlin, Germany.

## class of 1994

**Melissa La Rue** married Shane Fuller in August 2003. They are living in Spokane, and Melissa teaches fourth- and fifth-graders in the Nine Mile Falls School District. **Jenifer Cox** teaches middle-school science and student government near Sacramento, Calif. **Chris Koch** lives in Pasadena, Calif.; he released his first solo album in June. **Paul Spencer** is an employment specialist for Individual Contract Services in the department of vocational rehab at the Arc of Spokane. He recently appeared in three plays for the Playwrights Festival at the Civic Theatre.

## class of 1995

**10th Reunion Sept. 17, 2005, during Homecoming**

**Jen Willson** is a director of student ministries working with middle- and high-school kids in Naples, Fla. **Joy (Owen) Gjersvold** is living in mili-

tary housing at Bangor Submarine Base, in Washington, with her husband, Eric, who recently began a new career in the Navy. Joy is taking time off from her full-time teaching position to raise her new daughter, Finna. **Matthew Boles** moved to Mukilteo, Wash., to begin his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine. **Sean Wescott** is the project assistant at Bassetti Architects and the news editor and promoter for Uberlabel.com, a new recording label dedicated to the free and open promotion of music. **Heather Rempel** married Ramsey Phipps on August 7; after honeymooning in Tahiti, they moved into their first home, in Redwood City, Calif. Heather is going back to school for a graphic-design certificate at U.C. Berkeley extension and is still with Lexington Partners, a private equity investment firm in Menlo Park.

## class of 1996

**Attila Bogdan** works in Chicago for the Cook County State Attorney's Office as a prosecutor. **Anthony**

**Jensen** received the James Madison Fellowship for his teaching at Wasilla High School in Wasilla, Alaska; the award honors teachers of American history, government and social studies. **Trevor Sill** lives in East Wenatchee, Wash., where he is school counselor at Quincy Junior High. **Mike** and **Ashley Larkin** bought and remodeled a 1950s rancher in north Portland, Ore. **Erik** and **Rachel (Heiser) Karns** moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where Erik teaches high-school science. **Jean (Bush) McDaniel** teaches French at an inner-city school in Charlotte, N.C.

## class of 1997

**Tony Billingsley** is completing his last year of emergency-medicine residency in Seattle. **Shannon (Keesaw) Pace** is staying home with her son and working on poems, essays and children's stories. **Sheila Maak** finished her assignment in Honduras with the Peace Corps in 2001. She set up the Junior Achievement Office there and is now its executive director. **Daniel Kepper** is a real-estate

## Renfrow, rescued retriever reach out to kids

In 2001 a pregnant Golden Retriever was found wandering along a roadside in Nebraska. She was extremely thin, loaded with parasites, had a broken tail and was still just a puppy. The person who found her surrendered her to a regional rescue organization, and **Holly (Grimm) Renfrow**, '94, who had adopted another rescued Golden, Koa, the year before, welcomed the orphan into her home. She named the foundling Kaile.

The Renfrow family moved to Spokane, and Holly began taking Kaile to work with her at a long-term care facility for seniors. The dog interacted so well with everyone that Renfrow began therapy training with her. Kaile quickly earned her Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dogs International certifications and started training for agility competitions. Soon, though, she was diagnosed with cataracts and, when those were removed, with the much more serious condition of retinal de-



*Holly Renfrow and Kaile hang out at the East Central Library.*

generation; she is now virtually blind.

Despite Kaile's health problems, in summer 2003 Renfrow and her Golden introduced the Paws for Reading pro-

gram to the East Side branch of the Spokane Public Library, which serves mostly below-poverty-level children, only 10 percent of whom speak English. Beginning with just 12 regular readers that summer, they have now completed 62 programs and served 623 children.

In addition to listening to hesitant readers struggling to learn a new language, Renfrow and Kaile have thrown holiday parties and provided school supplies, clothing and trophies to celebrate reading milestones. "My time at Whitworth really instilled a sense of creating community with the resources I've been given, and right now those include time, creativity, and a Golden Retriever who is wild about kids," Renfrow says.

Kaile was recently awarded the 2004 Outstanding Golden Retriever Rescue and Community Excellence (GRACE) Award, a national honor given in conjunction with the Golden Retriever Club of America's annual specialty show.



agent in Seattle. **Corey Anderson** earned his master of education degree in school counseling from Seattle Pacific University and is now a counselor at Moses Lake (Wash.) High School. **David Collins** is senior sound designer at Lucas Arts and was recently promoted to voice director. He is also the director of contemporary music at the Presbyterian Church in Novato, Calif. **Jarred Gibson** is the head athletic trainer/instructor at Lane Community College, in Eugene, Ore. **Tricia (Sullivan) Nolan** is in a master's-degree program in international education development at Columbia Teachers College, in New York City. Her husband, Kirk, studies Christian ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary. **Karl McFarland** married Nick Brownlee on May 22, in Winthrop, Wash.

#### class of 1998

**Ruth Eichholtz** teaches middle- and high-school students at the International School of Stuttgart, in Germany, and is also working on her master's degree in secondary education. **Melissa Dunn** works at the University of California, Irvine, where she is assistant director of development for the School of Social Ecology. **Benjamin Patterson** works at Stanford University as a computer-networking-systems analyst. He recently helped coordinate

a donation of medical supplies to Argentina and is enjoying the success of his band, Tremolo. **Maria Ricciardelli** married Thomas Paul in August 2003. Maria is a translator, and Thomas is the executive director of operations for Popart, an Internet-services firm in Portland, Ore. Bass-baritone **James Newman** received the first Pierson Fellowship with the San Diego Opera Ensemble and recently moved with his wife, Jenn, to Phoenix, Ariz. **Donald Dicus** finished six years of teaching in Vallejo, Calif., and moved to Meridian, Idaho, with his wife, Kimberly. **Mindy Beard** is in her second year at Princeton Theological Seminary. **Ben Gorman** finished his master's degree in teaching at George Fox University and is currently teaching at Central High School, in Monmouth, Ore. His wife, **Paige (Larson, '00)**, is staying home with their baby boy, Noah. **Scott Hansen** received his doctor of medicine degree from Medical College of Wisconsin in May.

#### class of 1999

After teaching fourth grade for three years, **Amy (Ritter) Williams** is taking time off to raise her son, Jacob, in Battle Ground, Wash. Her husband, Shawn, is working full time as an IT technician for the Battle Ground School District. **Elizabeth (Gilstrap) Leman**,

and her husband, **James, '01**, accepted a ministry position in Wheaton, Ill., with Leader Treks, a youth-focused leadership-development ministry. **Jeremy Wynne** and **Andrew Rock** have received their M.Div. degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary. **Karina Boslet** completed her master's degree in education (in college-student affairs) at California's Azusa Pacific University. **Chris Chun** is pursuing a doctor of physical therapy degree at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Ariz. He married Lisa-Ann Hamilton in Sept. 2003. **Michael Lawlor** completed his LL.M. (in taxation) degree from the University of Washington School of Law. He recently moved with his wife and children to Washington, D.C., where he works as an attorney/advisor for the United States Tax Court. **Phillip Harrington** graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Ph.D. in mathematics and is an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of South Dakota. **Jaime (Marcella) Clark** is the youth services coordinator at SAFE, a domestic-violence shelter for women and children in Hamilton, Mont., and is completing her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of Montana. **Munir Tanas** earned his M.D. degree from the University of Washington, where he is completing his residency in pathology.

Munir and his wife, **Jamie (Wakefield, '01)**, live in Seattle, where Jamie teaches at Mountlake Terrace High School. **Angela Gillam** is living in Battle Ground, Wash., and doing community theatre, teaching preschool, and serving on her church's worship team. **Camille Cooke** recently moved to New York City to work as the marketing director for the Miller Theater at Columbia University.

#### class of 2000

**Heidi (Gunter) Stafford** lives in Evanston, Ill., where she has given up teaching Spanish to stay home with her new son, Aiden. **Jes Brown** is working as an assistant language teacher in Kota, Japan. In February, **Misty Frazier** returned from serving as a nurse in the U.S. Army in Iraq and was awarded the Bronze Star for valor. **Brenna Robinson** is at Princeton Seminary – along with a number of other Whitworth alums – pursuing an M.Div. She recently became engaged to **Alan Stanfield, '97**; they are planning a June 2005 wedding. **Cindy Little** is pursuing a Ph.D. in educational psychology at Baylor University and teaches undergraduate courses in education. **Joseph White** is pursuing an M.Div. from Masters Seminary in Sun Valley, Calif.

#### class of 2001

**Josh Akers** enrolled in the Pharm.D. program at Washington State University this fall. **Yakov Fedchun** holds a technical position at Parsons Corporation in Richland, Wash. He performs with the Mid-Columbia Symphony, entertains at a local piano lounge, and is working on his first album. **Robert Doughty** is taking a break from teaching to pursue a master's degree in religious studies at Gonzaga University. He is involved with the ministry-formation program at Gonzaga and works as a lector and eucharistic minister at St. Aloysius Church. **Sky Blake** is the area representative for the Palm Springs, Calif., chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. **Brett Wright** graduated from Pepperdine University in May with a master's degree in clinical psychology and works as a therapist with abused and neglected children through Childhelp, USA. **Buz Hollingsworth** married Jolen Stewart on July 10. **Joshua Cleaveland** is pursuing an



#### VOICES FROM THE PAST

*During Alumni Family Weekend in June, more than 80 former members of the Whitworth choir from seven decades gathered with five former directors to catch up, rehearse and sing. Here they perform under the direction of Bryan Priddy (1997-2002) during the Saturday-evening reunion banquet.*



M.Div. degree at Princeton Theological Seminary. **Melanie Avey** married Edward Dawson, a news anchor for KEPR-19 TV, in Pasco, Wash. Melanie teaches third- and fourth-grade bilingual classes at Pasco's Longfellow Elementary. **Julie Strong** married James Tedford in July, in Kelso, Wash. They currently live in Santa Monica, Calif., where Julie works as a case manager at a battered-women's shelter, and James is pursuing

a doctorate in New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary.

### class of 2002

**Ryosuke Suzuki** teaches Japanese full time and is also a track coach at a high school in Silverdale, Wash. **Majid Tanas** is in the Pharm.D. program at Washington State University. **Jennifer Brandler** married **Colin Hesse**, '03, and is a reporter for the *Journal of Busi-*

*ness* in Spokane. **Elizabeth Rich** works as a youth coordinator at First Wyoming United Presbyterian Church, in Torrington, Wyo. **Carolyn Browning Helsel** received an M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. **Carrie Erickson** is a member of the Colorado Air National Guard. Her fourth article has been accepted for publication in *Brio* magazine through Focus on the Family. **Nicole Davis** married **James Miller**, '04. **David Pascoe**

completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. **Dave Webster** married Dawn Steffen in February. Dave is currently attending Dubuque Theological Seminary, in Iowa. **Elizabeth Kear** graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a master of science degree in marital and family therapy. **Anne Dwyer** completed a year-long internship with an organic farm/distribution co-op in Osceola, Wisc. **Elysia (Hanna)**

## Whitworth sibs take unexpected paths

Siblings Tracy (Stephenson, '96) Ekhardt and Bret Stephenson, '98, have shared a great deal. Both attended Whitworth in the 1990s as history majors (with Bret double-majoring in environmental studies); both married in June 2003; both currently live in Texas; and both are making great strides in their careers.

After graduating from Whitworth, Ekhardt began postgraduate work at Oregon Health Sciences University to complete her medical degree. Just two weeks after she'd finished her pediatric residency and one week after her wedding, she and her husband moved to Dallas, Texas, where she began her pediatric critical-care fellowship at Children's Medical Center and he took over the pastorate of a Presbyterian congregation. Her highly competitive fellowship at one of the largest critical-care units in the country has given Ekhardt the opportunity to deal with many different types of pediatric cases. "Who knew what you could do with a history degree from Whitworth?" Ekhardt jokes. "The other day I was draining a pocket of blood from around a sick kid's heart with a rather large needle and I thought, 'Wow, I'm glad I didn't go into advertising; this is kind of cool.'"

Ekhardt came to Whitworth planning to go into engineering, never imagining that she would eventually follow in her father's footsteps in pediatrics. She chose a history major because she didn't want to focus solely on science. "I had more science coursework than any history major in Whitworth's history," she says. Ekhardt, who excelled



*This brother-sister team went from Whitworth to Texas to pursue very different careers.*

in both areas, recently added one more exciting element to her very full life: She and her husband welcomed their first child, son Asher, in October.

Stephenson and his wife moved to Waco, not too far from his sister, after he'd finished some doctoral work in environmental theology and ethics at the University of Edinburgh. He is now an environmental-studies lecturer at Baylor University. "Nobody's more shocked than I am at what I'm doing – but I'm very pleased with how it's turned out," says Stephenson, who describes himself as a "late bloomer." He credits **Dale Soden** and **Jim Hunt** (Politics & History) with persuading him to complete his history degree, which has since proved helpful in his research, and encouraging him in his environmental endeavors. "At the time I knew I wanted to do something environmental, but didn't realize I'd have

such a passion for theology; and now I'm able to combine the two," he says. In his lectures and writing, he examines multiple areas that include human geography, theologies of creation, and the philosophy of technology. He will complete his doctoral thesis in the near future. "My work represents an attempt to engage in a critical dialogue with human geographical theory in an effort to construct a more philosophically and theologically rigorous concept of 'place' or 'placing,'" says Stephenson.

While neither Eckhardt nor Stephenson ever imagined what the future would hold, both credit their achievements in part to the investment made by dedicated Whitworth faculty who helped them develop their interests without pegging them into career paths. "Whitworth does a great job at preparing you for your *whole* career," Ekhardt says.





### 'SUMMER'S LEASE HATH ALL TOO SHORT A DATE'

*More than 30 alumni and friends of Whitworth enjoyed wonderful theatre, food and conversation in August with Professor of English Pamela Corpron Parker, '81 (first row, third from right) at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, in Ashland.*

**Spencer** began her master in teaching degree in September and is living in Breckenridge, Colo., with her husband, Whitman. **Luta Welch** is pursuing a master's degree in public health from Tulane University in New Orleans, La. **Andrew Garretson** is working as an au pair in La Jolla, Calif., and is leading a Bible study through College Avenue Baptist Church's flood service in San Diego. **Katie Harris** is the director of middle-school ministries at Columbia Presbyterian Church, in Vancouver, Wash.

### class of 2003

**Carol Ewens** is a registered nurse at Sacred Heart Medical Center, in Spokane. **Caitlin Clapp** married David Manz on Dec. 31. **Jacob Spaun** is a program assistant for service-learning at Whitworth College. **Hannah Vahlstrom** married **Benjamin McDonald, '04**, on June 5 at Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church. She is a child-life specialist and substitute teacher, and he is working toward a doctorate in physics at Vanderbilt University. **Matt Knoll** is the marketing assistant for Spokane's Lydig Construction team. **Kelsey Rice** works at the National Network of Presbyterian College Women in Louisville, Ky., after an internship there last year. **Katie Carlson** is pursuing a Ph.D. in English at the University of North Carolina. **Angela Little-Gott** is pursuing a master's degree in literature at Boise State University in Idaho. **Jason Reynolds** and **Julie Jones** were married in May and now live in Richland, Wash. **Elizabeth Marx** married Derek Anderson of Grandview, Wash., on Aug. 21. They live in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. **Amber Bobst** is a third-grade teacher for Harbor Christian

Schools, in Gig Harbor, Wash. **Todd Goselin** and **Pamela Johnson, '04**, were married in September. Todd works as an actuarial analyst at Standard Insurance, in Portland, Ore., and Pam teaches sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade math for Pacific Northwest Academy. **Kasey Graham** recently joined the national tour of *Oklahoma* as assistant conductor. He'll remain with the touring production through June 2005. He worked previously at the Theatre Barn, a professional summer-stock theatre in upstate New York, where he served as musical director of the productions *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, *Beguiled Again*, and *Cabaret*. He also made his directorial debut with *Sylvia*.

### class of 2004

**Randall Withrow** received his B.A. in organizational management from Whitworth in May, graduating magna cum laude. **Jamin Palmer** moved to St. Louis to complete his master's degree in criminology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. **Zachary Brown** is a professional actor and a member of Seattle's Taproot Theatre Educational Touring Program, with which he performs in several plays and tours schools and community centers throughout Washington. **Ryan Moede** was promoted to media relations and web-development coordinator at Inland Northwest Health Services, in Spokane. **Lars Olson** is spending a year in France, working as an au pair, after traveling around Cairo, Egypt, and networking with international alums. Olson's traveling partner was **Ben Robinson**, who is now involved in youth ministry at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, in Cairo. He is also beginning a master's-degree program at Cairo's Evangelical Theological Seminary, and next June he will return to Spokane to marry **Emily Hinson, '05**. **Jake McCoy** is working at Westminster House in the West-Central neighborhood of Spokane. He received a Krista Colleague grant from the Krista Foundation to travel to Vietnam, where his aunt works in Christian

service. **Gary Kessie** is pursuing a graduate degree at Whitworth and is an assistant coach for the Whitworth swim team. **Julia Smucker** is spending the year teaching English as a second language in Haiti with the Mennonite Central Committee.

### graduate notes

**Ken Russell, '94 MAT**, is assistant principal at Mead High School. M.Ed. Graduates: **Julie Mansfield, '01**, married Daniel Olivas in July at Beaverton Christian Church in Beaverton, Ore. She teaches in the Portland School District, and Daniel works at Cascade Auto Glass as an operations-system administrator. **Leslie Lynn Smith, '04**, is a half-time principal and half-time resource teacher in Newport, Ore. **Jaime Valenzuela, '04**, is a counselor at Lake City High School, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. **Pat Schmidt, '97**, is vice president for curriculum at Kamiak High School. **Debbie Ogden, '04**, is a special-education teacher at Chattaroy Elementary School. **Tom Gresch, '97**, is principal at Cheney High School. **Jennifer Heib-Dexter, '04**, is a counselor for the Aberdeen School District. **Jesse Hardt, '01**, is assistant principal at Shaw Middle School in Spokane. **Matt Fieger, '04**, is a high-school counselor in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

## Whitworth mourns Brent Rice, '02

A new tribute wall in the Whitworth Aquatics Center embodies the community's great affection and respect for **Brent Rice**, who died in May in a one-car accident in Southern California.

Rice, originally from Des Moines, Wash., was a state swimming champion at Mt. Rainier High School. At Whitworth, he was a star of the men's swim team from his freshman season through his final meet. Of his 12 career individual events at the Northwest Conference championships, he won nine. He was part of 11 conference champion relay teams, and he held meet records in the 200 I.M., 400 I.M., 200 Butterfly and 100



Freestyle. He also contributed to records in the 800 Free Relay, the 200 Medley Relay and the 400 Medley Relay.

Rice was a favorite of his coaches and teammates. "He commanded respect and admiration," says former Whitworth swim coach **Tom Dodd**. "But he also had a way of making everyone feel like a friend. He just loved people. We will miss him deeply."

The Brent Rice Tribute Wall in the Whitworth Aquatics Center, dedicated during Homecoming Weekend, features a plaque dedicated to Rice's memory and lists his many accomplishments as a member of the Pirate swim team.

Rice is survived by his parents, Jim and Mary Jo Rice, and by six siblings. His brothers, twins **Jerry** and **Jeff** (both '97) and **Brian, '00**, were also standouts on the Whitworth swim team.



# Alumni Family Weekend



*Dorm living • Faculty lectures  
Conversation • Worship  
Campus tours  
Food • Swimming  
Campfire  
Q&A with President Robinson  
Kids' College for children*



## June 17-19, 2005

All alumni are invited to enjoy a full weekend of on-campus activities and the following events:

- 60-year reunion for Class of 1945
- 55-year reunion for Class of 1950
- 50-year reunion for Class of 1955
- 45-year reunion for Class of 1960
- 40-year reunion for classes of 1963-65
- 35-year reunion for Class of 1970
- 30-year reunion for Class of 1975
- 25-year reunion for Class of 1980
- 20-year reunion for Class of 1985
- 15-year reunion for Class of 1990

[www.whitworth.edu/familyweekend](http://www.whitworth.edu/familyweekend)

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at 800.532.4668 or 509.777.3799, or e-mail [alumni@whitworth.edu](mailto:alumni@whitworth.edu).

# WHITWORTH

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*1936 (Then)*



*2004 (Now)*



Loaf of bread

\$0.09    \$1.29

Dozen eggs

\$0.27    \$2.07

Three tennis balls

\$0.50    \$2.99

Tennis racquet

\$1.79    \$109.99

Tuition at Whitworth

\$150    \$20,980

Ford V8 Sedan

\$515    \$30,375



*From prices to hairstyles* to tennis racquets, things have changed significantly over the past 60 years. However, the mind-and-heart mission of Whitworth, the college's commitment to serving students who will make a difference in the world, and our continued need for your support are stronger than ever. Please make a gift to The Whitworth Fund today. For additional information or to contribute now, please visit [www.whitworth.edu/give](http://www.whitworth.edu/give) or contact Elizabeth Strauch at 509.777.4769, 800.532.4668, or [estrauch@whitworth.edu](mailto:estrauch@whitworth.edu).